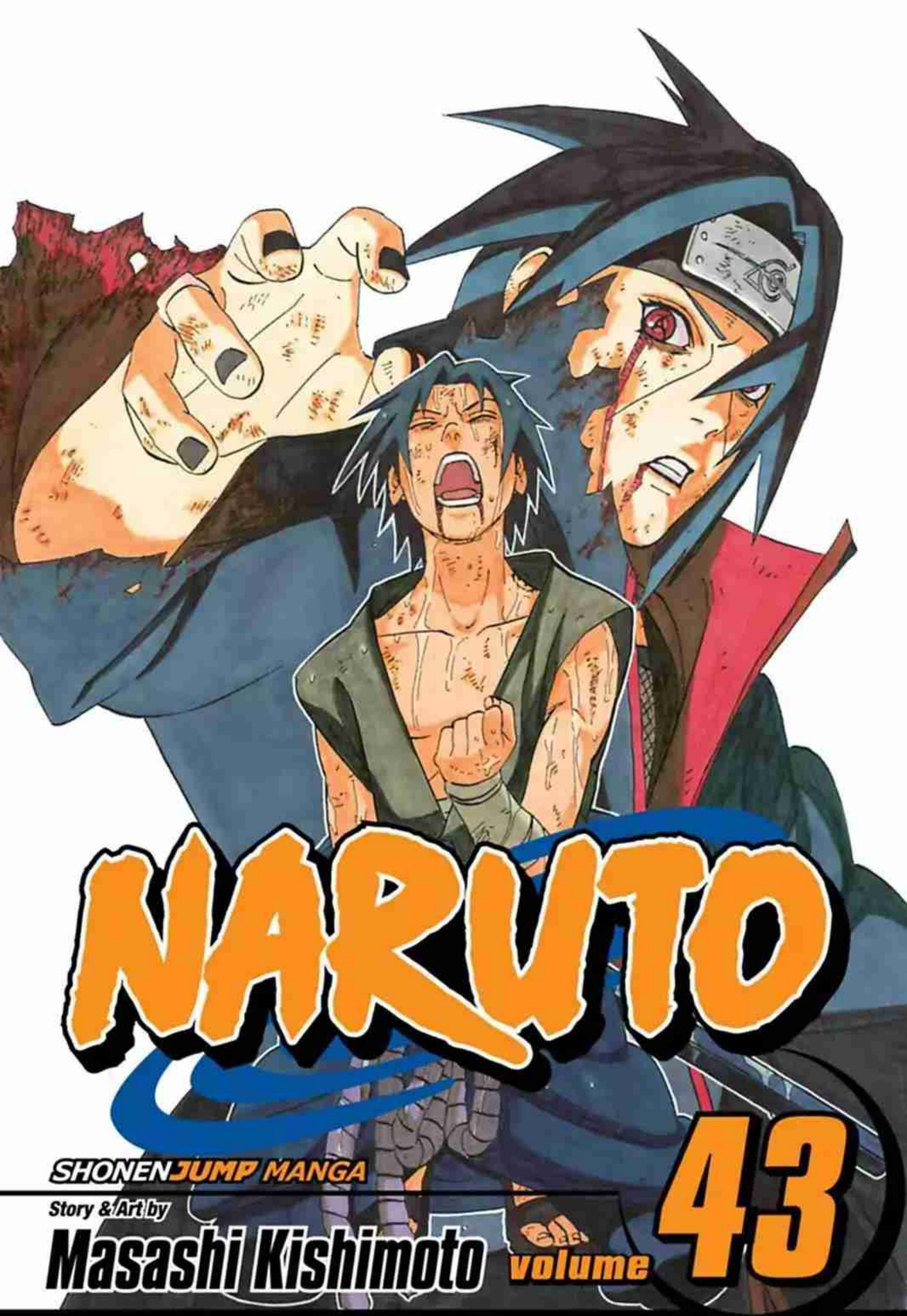
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 43

450 yen (with tax)...
I truly apologize for this affront. I had decided that this (241) was the right number of pages to bring you, the readers, the Sasuke vs. Itachi arc. But this resulted in the price of the tankobon [graphic novel] going up, for which I feel absolutely terrible. This volume is also a bit thicker, but I do hope that you will read it to the very end.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2008

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 43
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
English Adaptation/Deric A. Hughes
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Inori Fukuda Trant
Design/Gerry Serrano
Editor/Joel Enos

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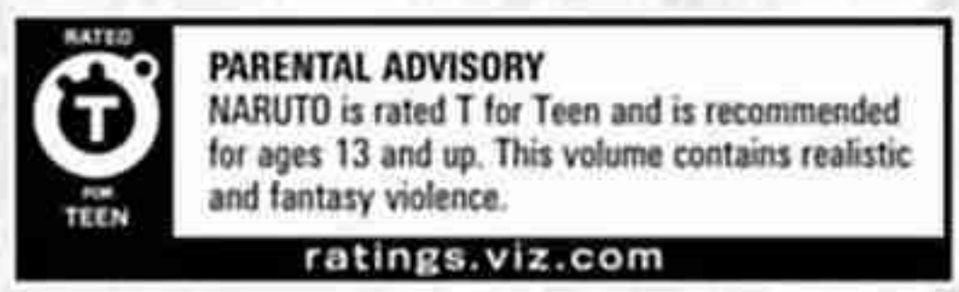
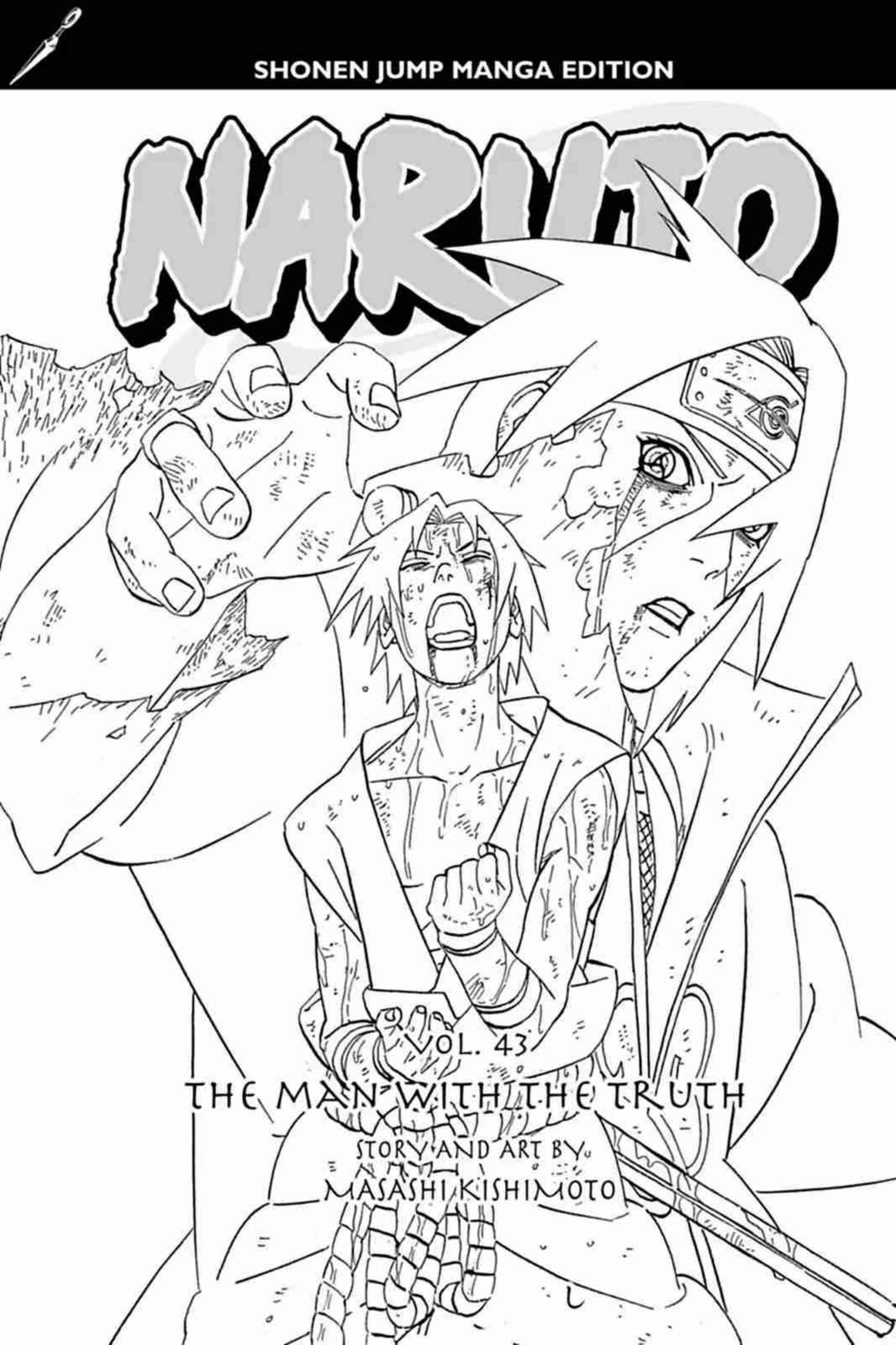


SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION



VOL. 43

THE MAN WITH THE TRUTH

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Naruto ナルト

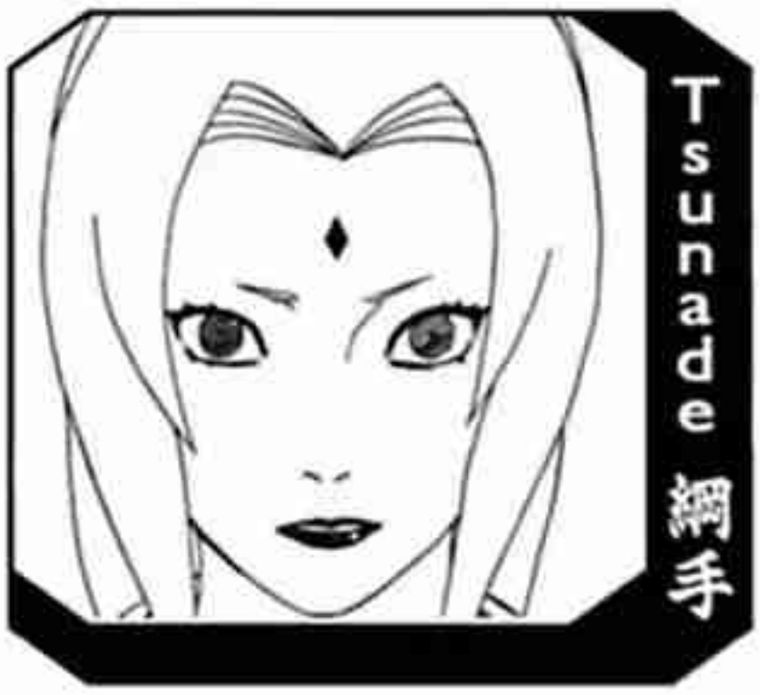
Sasuke サスケ

Kakashi カカシ

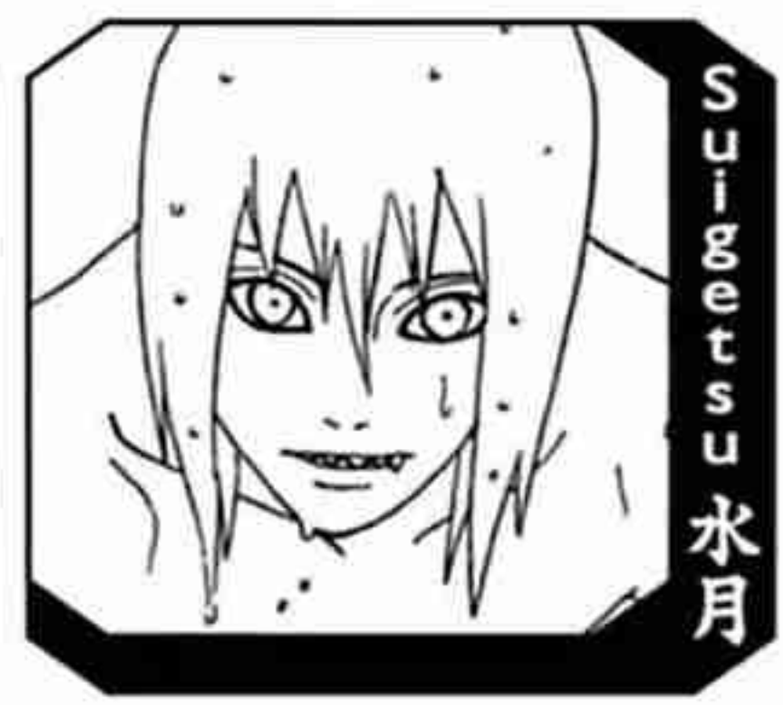
Sakura サクラ

Sai サイ

Yamato ヤマト


Tsunade 綱手

Jiraiya 自来也
油



THE STORY SO FAR...

Once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy, Uzumaki Naruto now serves dutifully among the ranks of the Konoha shinobi—an illustrious group of ninja sworn to protect their village from the forces of evil seeking to destroy it from without and within...

However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power...

Two years pass. Naruto and his comrades grow up and head out once more. As their fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki rage on, Sasuke rebels against Orochimaru and takes everything from him. Sasuke then gathers new companions and chases after Itachi. Jiraiya, the man who has trained Naruto for more than two years to deal with the impending attack of the Akatsuki, finally discovers the identity of the Akatsuki leader, Pain, and the secret is then bequeathed to Naruto—after Jiraiya's untimely death. Sasuke once again confronts his brother Itachi and learns not only about his brother's true intentions, but also about the Uchiha Clan's past. And to slake his vengeance, Sasuke challenges him to a battle. Confident that he can win, Sasuke appears to overpower and corner his brother... but then Itachi begins to unleash the full power of the Amaterasu...

NARUTO

VOL. 43
THE MAN WITH THE TRUTH

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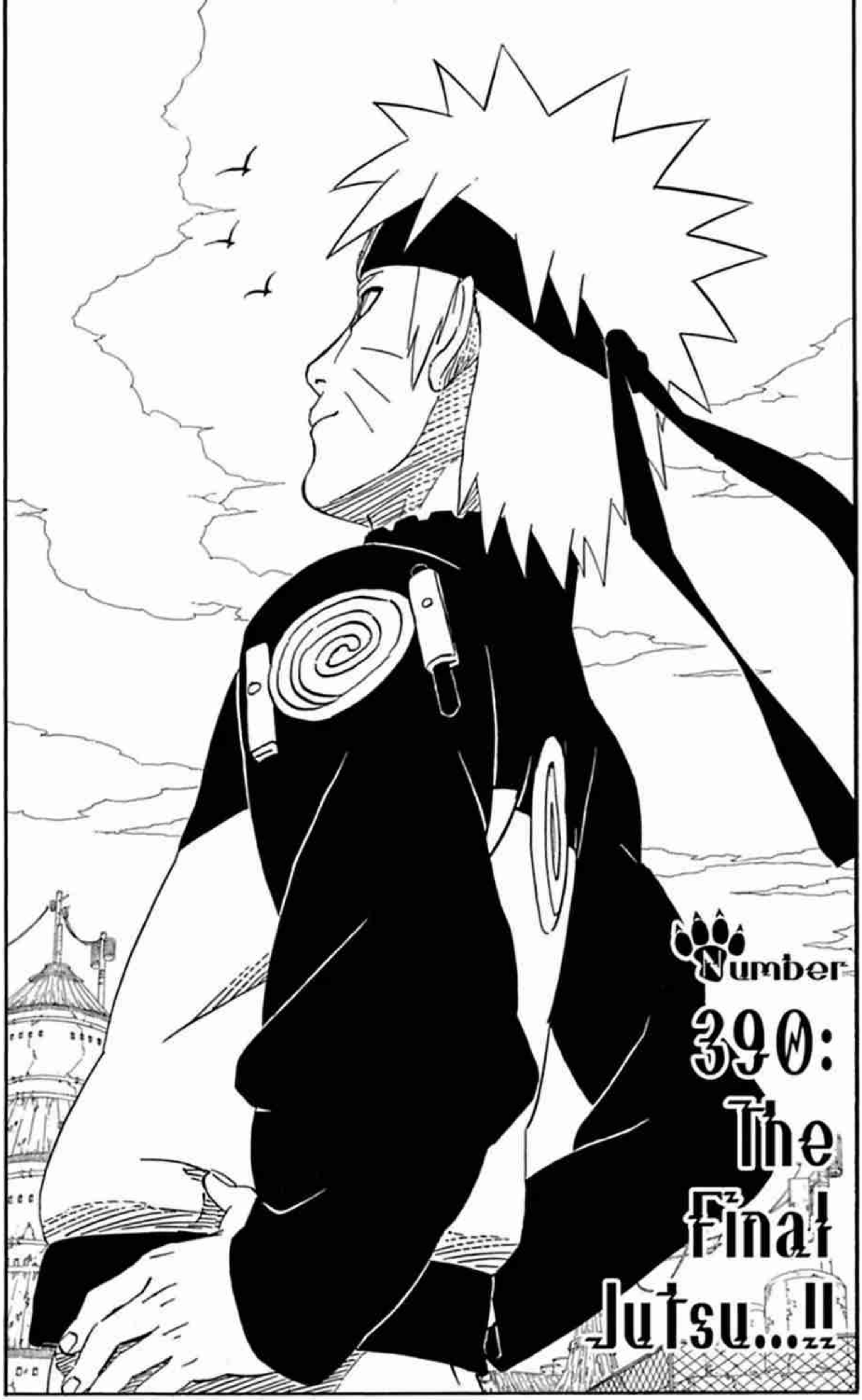
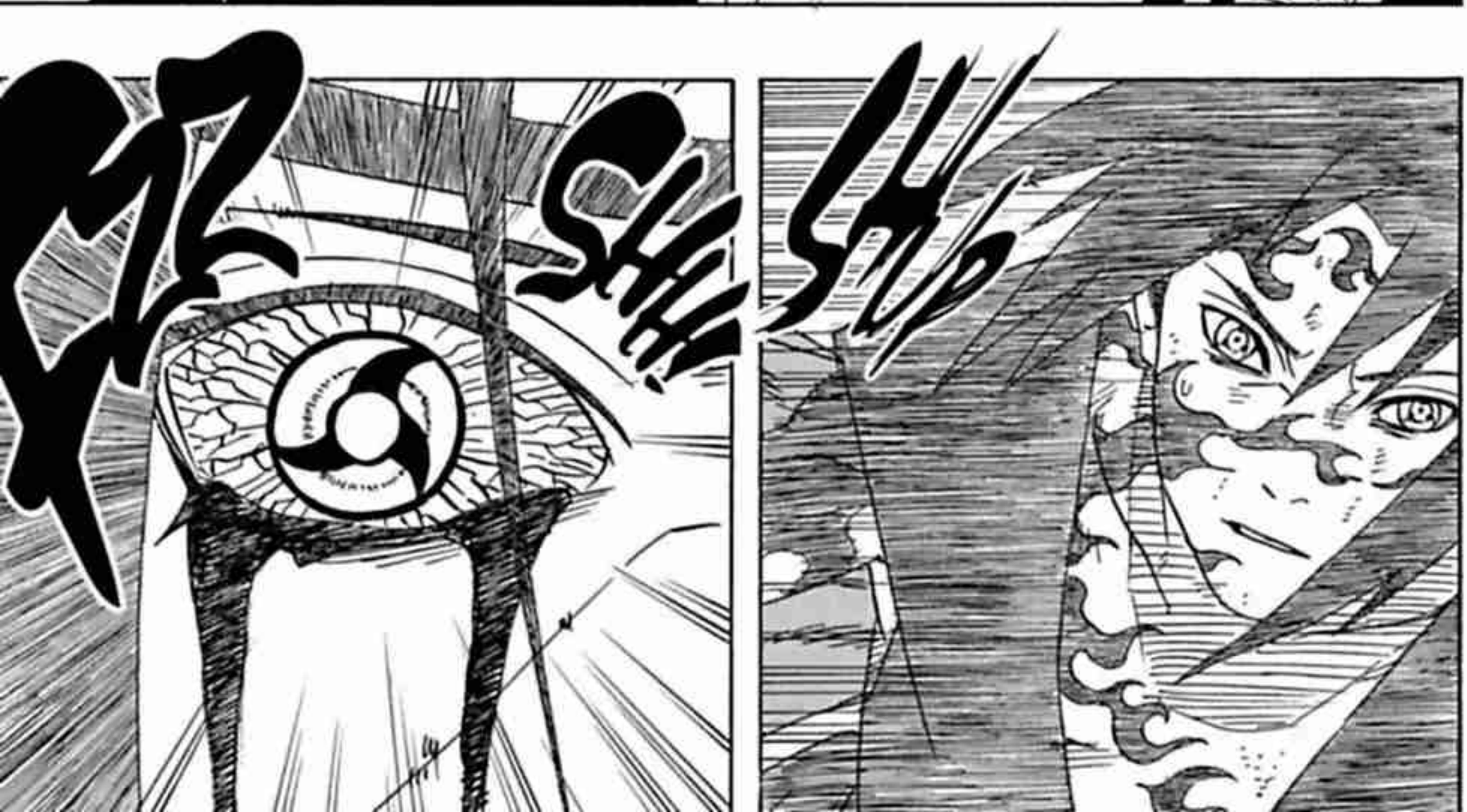

Number
390:
The
Final
Jutsu...!!

TOK

ONE NEEDS ONLY TO SIGHT ONE'S TARGET. AND THE BLACK FLAMES WILL COME TO LIFE RIGHT ON POINT.
W-WHOA... HE PUT OUT FLAMES WITH FLAMES!

QWISSH

THE BLACK FLAMES NEVER GO OUT UNTIL THEY HAVE BURNED THEIR TARGET TO ASH... EVEN IF THAT HAPPENS TO BE OTHER FLAMES!
HUF
HUF


SHU
SHUB

VOOSH
VOOSH
VOOSH
VOOSH

SKRITCH!
!!
FWOOSH!
AARGH...
UGH!
TOK-SKRITCH!

HUF
HUF

VWOO
VWOO

SSH
ZIZZLE...

HUF
HUF
SHUP

FSH...

HE'S PUT OUT THE AMATERASU... HE'S PLANNING TO TAKE HIS EYES...
TOLD YOU ITACHI'D WIN!

SPUTTER SPUTTER SPUTTER...

!

SQUELCH

THESE WOUNDS ARE NOTHING...

ZIZZLE...

HE ESCAPED BELOW ?!

!

READ THIS WAY
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
I CAN'T USE THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION.
UNTIL HE UNLEASHES THE AMATERASU...
CLATTER CLATTER
ZAP
TUP
KRUG

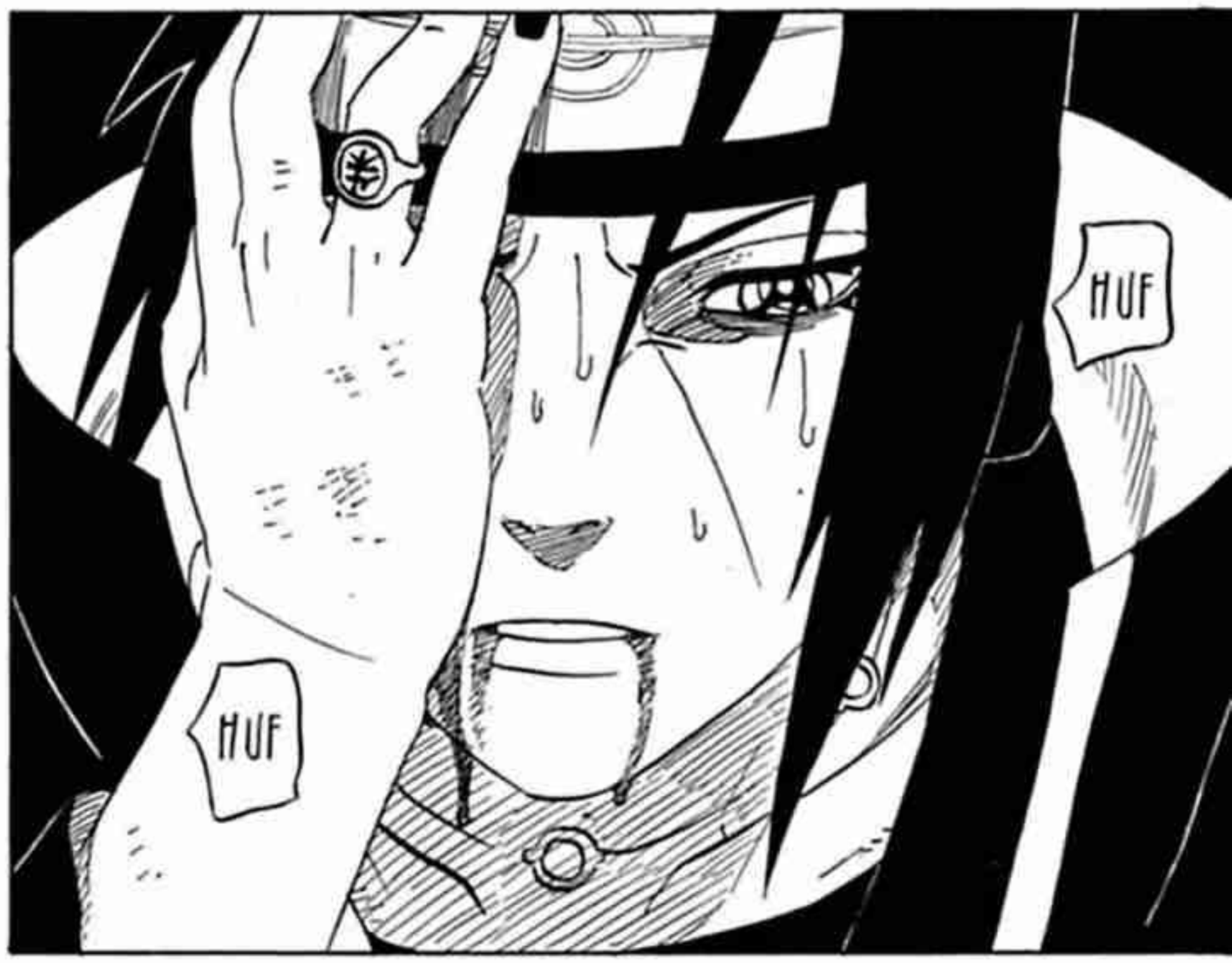
ZWOO...

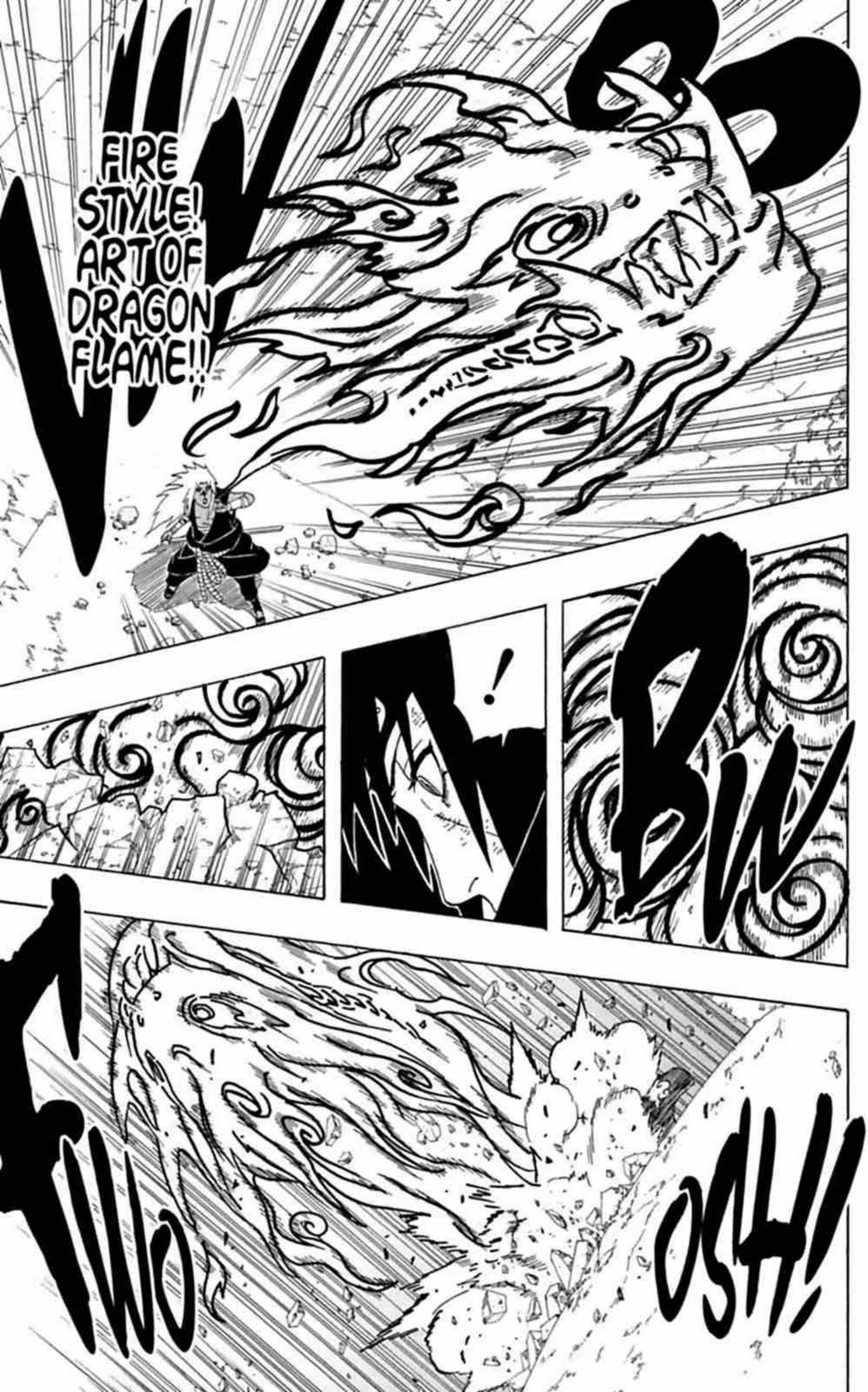
ZWOO...
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

SWOO...
HACK HACK

TAK

!


HUF
HUF


FIRE STYLE! ART OF DRAGON FLAME!!
!
BLAZE
OSHI!

SHWOO SHWOO
!
SLEEK
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK
SHUP

FWOOSH

UGH...!

WAH!

ZWOO...

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

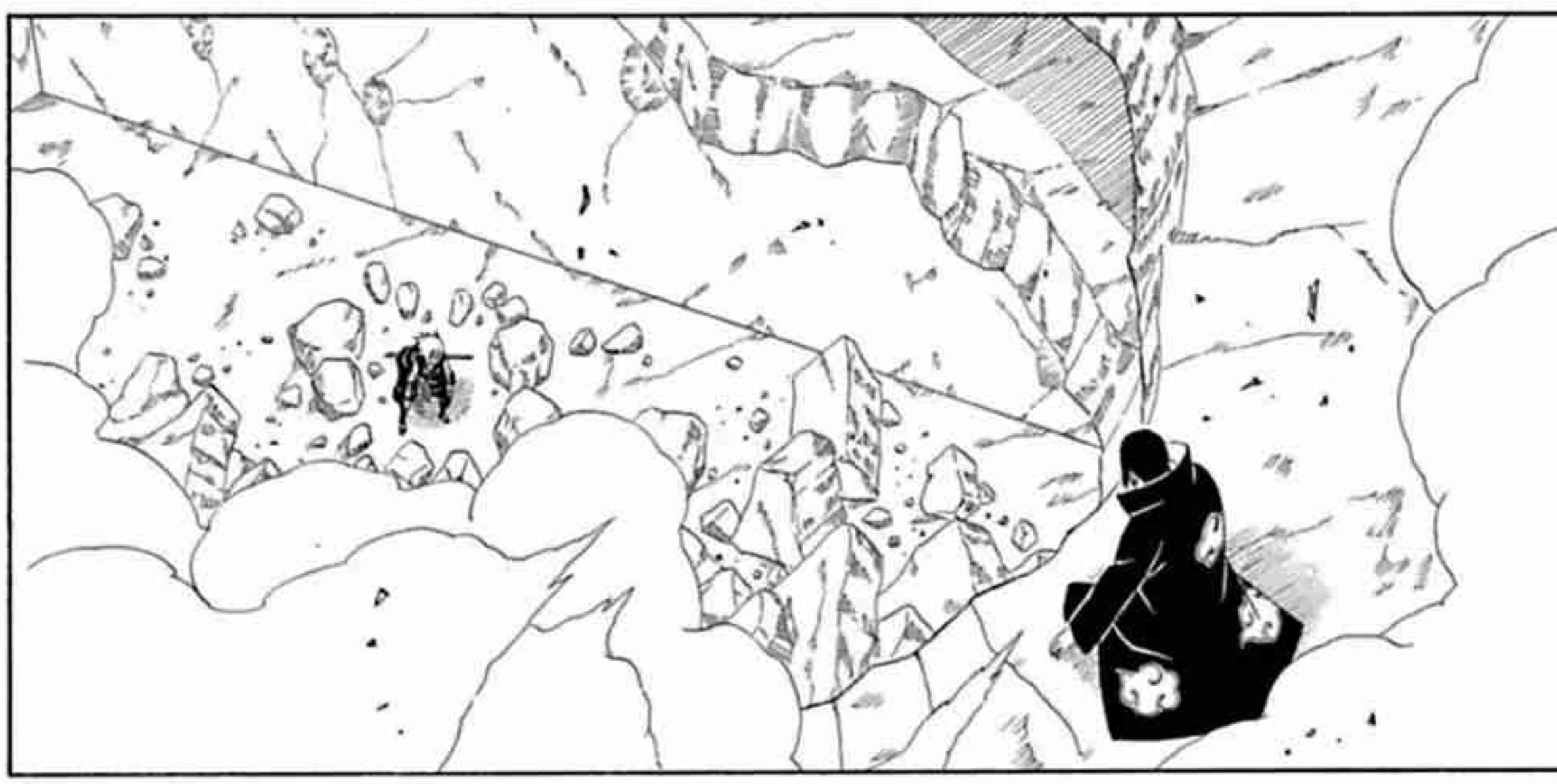
MUF

MUF

KA BOOM...

HUF
HUF

TOK
HUF



UGH...
BUCKLE
THUNK

THAT AMATERASU ...
...TOOK A LOT OUT OF YOU, EH...
HUF

READ THIS WAY
HUF
HUF
ZWOO...
SURE SEEMS THAT WAY...
YOU THINK THEY'RE OUT OF CHAKRA?
THEY'RE GOING TO COLLAPSE.
ZWOO
THIS WILL PROBABLY BE MY LAST JUTSU...
RUMBLE RUMBLE...

SSH...

STOP BLUFF-ING...

I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE OUT OF CHAKRA.

THE SHARINGAN CAN ASSESS CHAKRA.

HUF

HUF

I SEE... BECAUSE SASUKE HAS ABSORBED OROCHI-MARU...!

HUH...

...YOU'RE SKILLFUL, BUT YOU USED TOO MUCH CHAKRA.

YOU USED THE OROCHIMARU-STYLE ART OF SUBSTITUTION TO EVADE MY AMATERASU...

...I USED IT UP ON THAT FIRE STYLE JUTSU...

BRRMBLE-BRRMBLE

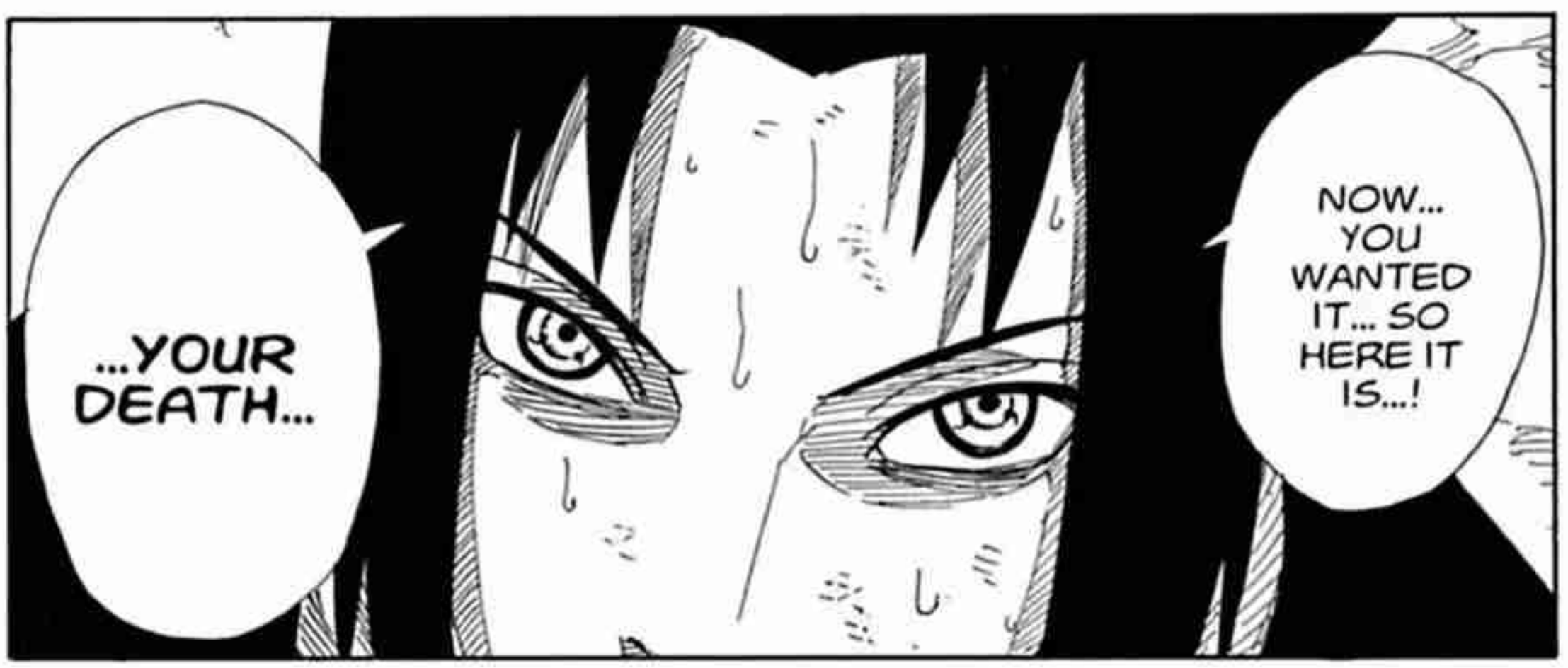
YEAH, I DON'T HAVE ANY CHAKRA LEFT...

RRRUMBLE RUMBLE

JUST LIKE THE AMATERASU, IT CANNOT BE BLOCKED OR EVADED.

WHOOOSH

IT ONLY LASTS AN IN-STANT ...



ZWOO...

WHAT IS IT?

...JUST LIKE THE AMATERASU?!
NO ONE CAN EVADE THE JUTSU...

!

SSH!

!

Number 391:
Thunderclap...!!

Number 391: Thunderclap...!!

...
FWIIZ
SHIIIT

I STILL DON'T GET IT.
SASUKE'S REAL TARGET WAS NEVER ITACHI...!

THAT'S IT! THAT WHAT SASUKE'S FIRE WAS FOR!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?

TO FORM A CUMULO-NIMBUS...
...A THUNDER-CLOUD!!
KRA KLE
KRA KLE
HE SHOT FIRE STYLE JUTSU INTO THE SKY...
...TO RAPIDLY RAISE THE AMBIENT AIR TEMPERATURE AND CREATE AN ASCENDING AIR CURRENT!

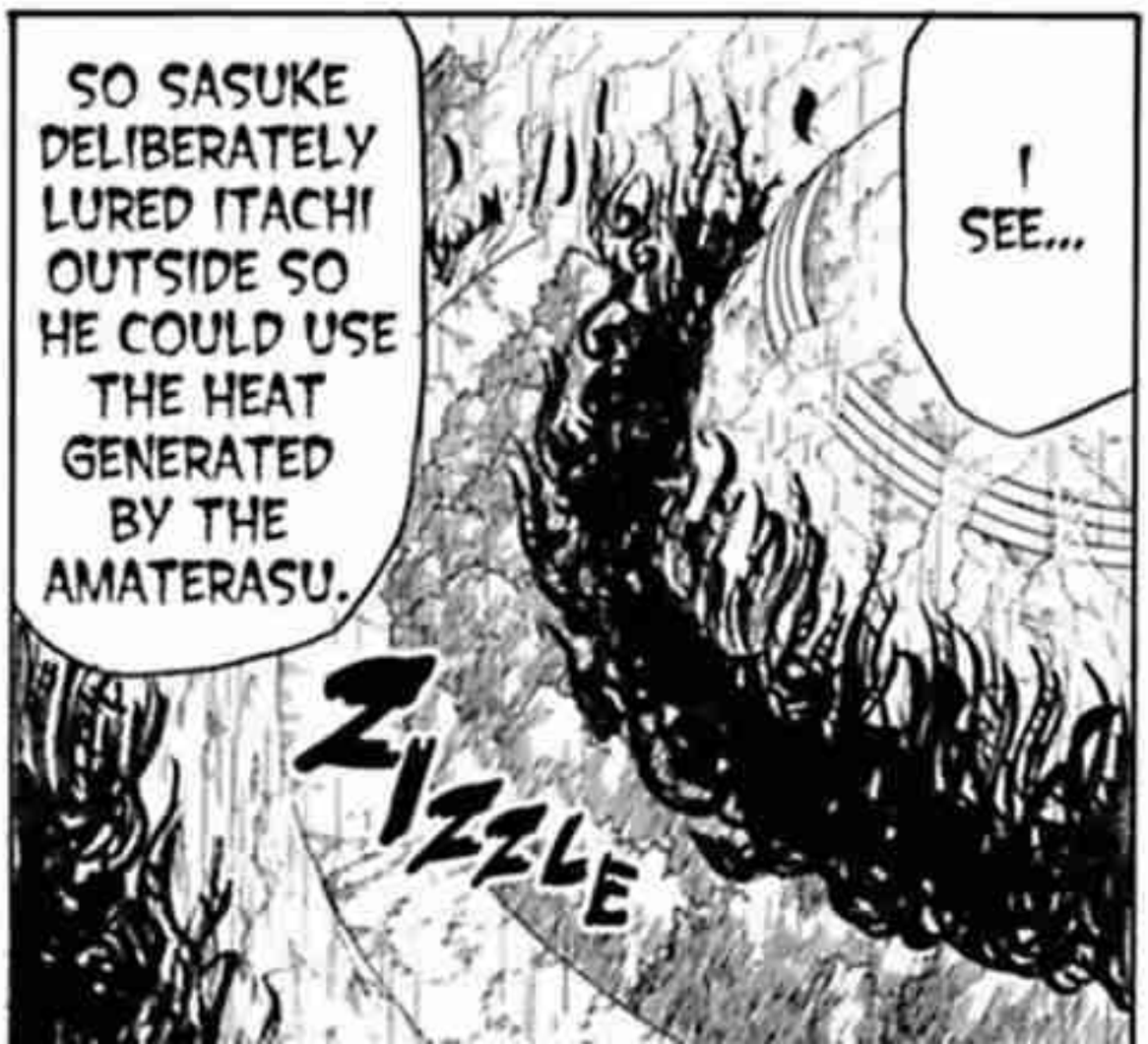
READ THIS WAY
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO USE HIS OWN CHAKRA...
...BUT JUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ENOR-MOUS AMBIENT ATMOSPHERIC ENERGY...
AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH...
...TO CREATE A LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU!
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
DOESN'T MATTER. WHICHEVER ONE IT IS, IT'LL BE ON A TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT SCALE THAN WHAT ANYONE CAN CREATE USING CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE ALONE!
FSH
WHICH ONE?

TMP

...

SHOOM

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

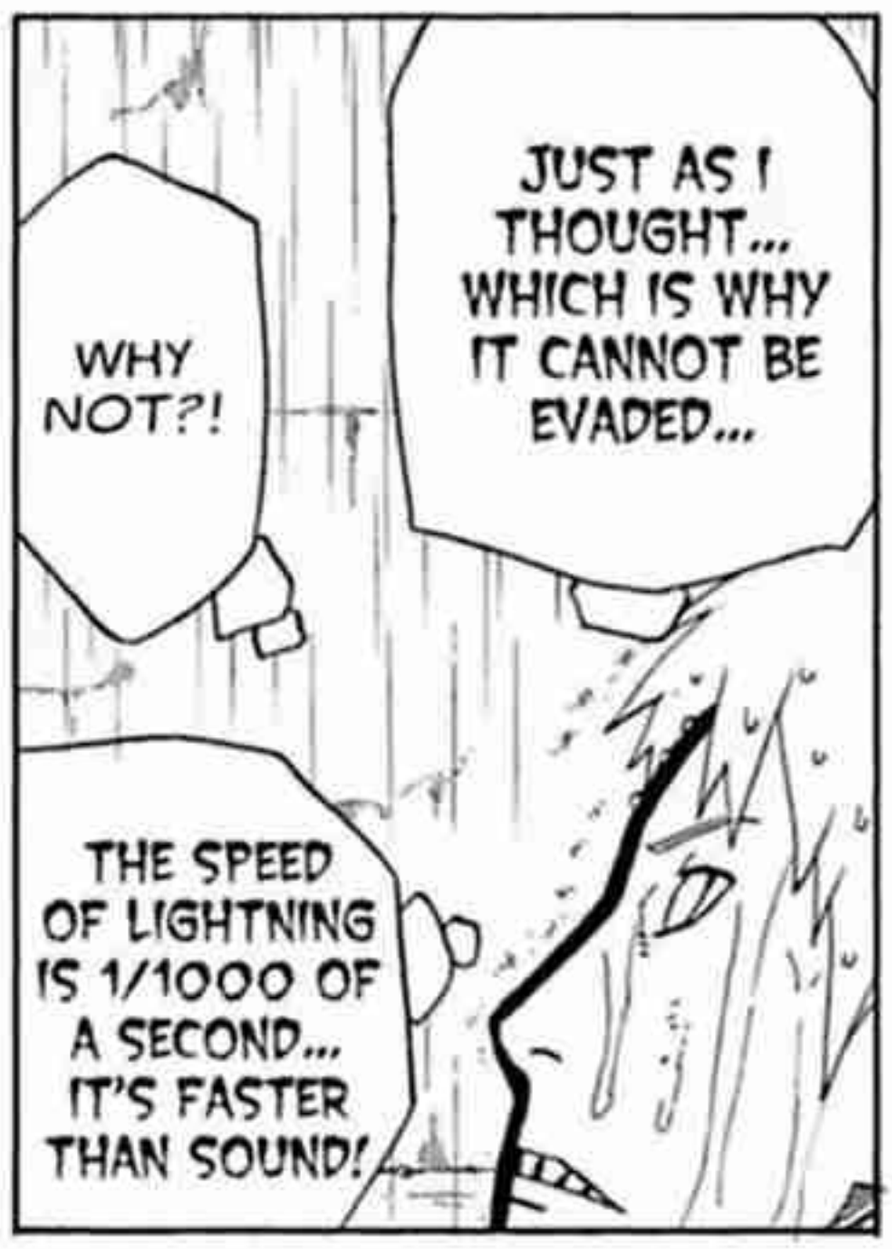

SO SASUKE DELIBERATELY LURED ITACHI OUTSIDE SO HE COULD USE THE HEAT GENERATED BY THE AMATERASU.
! SEE...
ZIZZLE

!

ZIZZLE

...IN SHORT, I MERELY DIRECT ITS POWER TOWARD YOU.
WHOOSH
THIS JUTSU GUIDES THE LIGHTNING STRIKING DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS ...

THIS JUTSU IS KIRIN...
FSH
KRACKLE KRACKLE KRACKLE


JUST AS I THOUGHT... WHICH IS WHY IT CANNOT BE EVADED...
WHY NOT?!
THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING IS 1/1000 OF A SECOND... IT'S FASTER THAN SOUND!

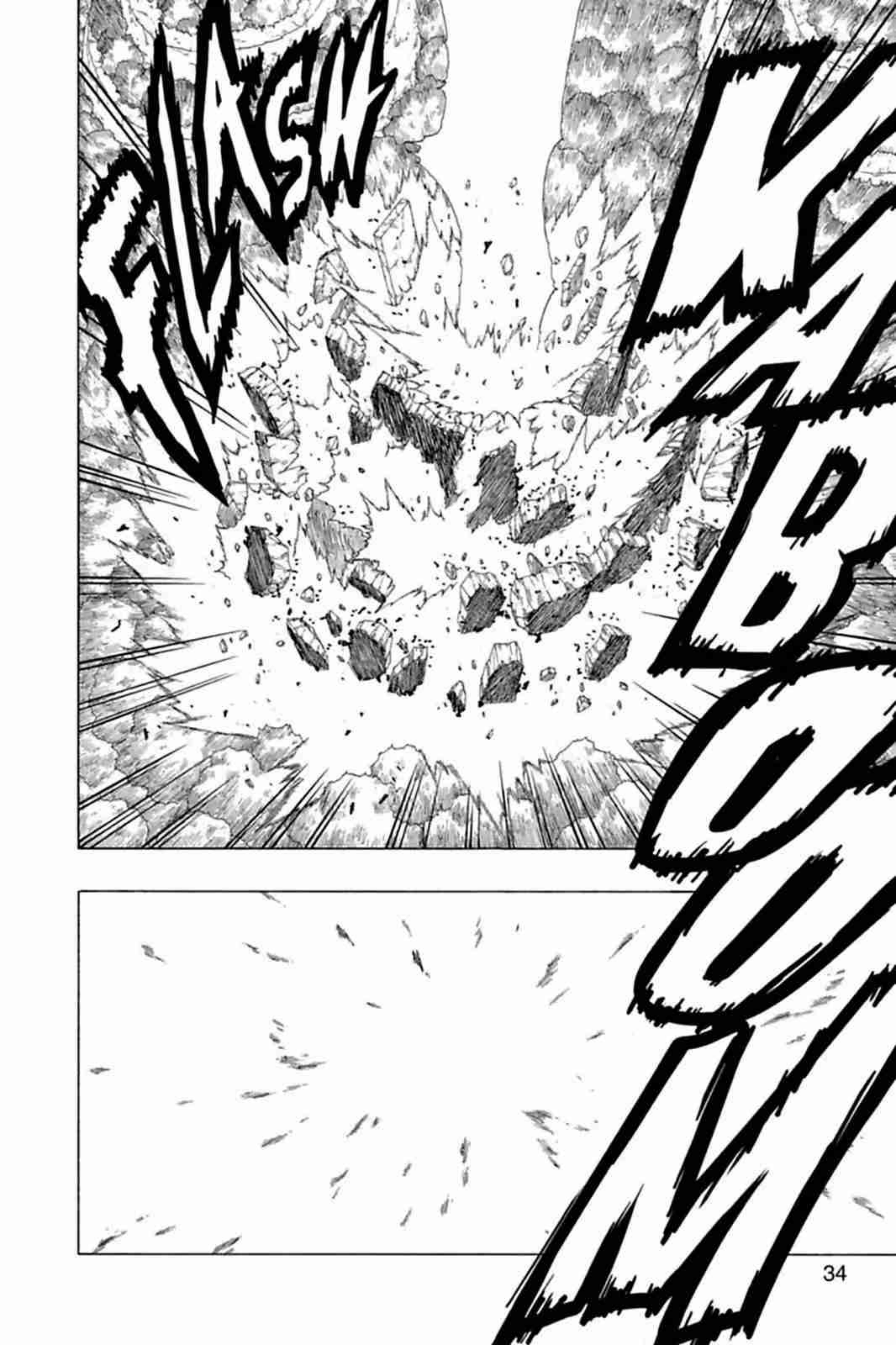
SASUKE HAS TAMED LIGHT-NING?!!
WH-WHAT?

!

RUMBLE RUMBLE...

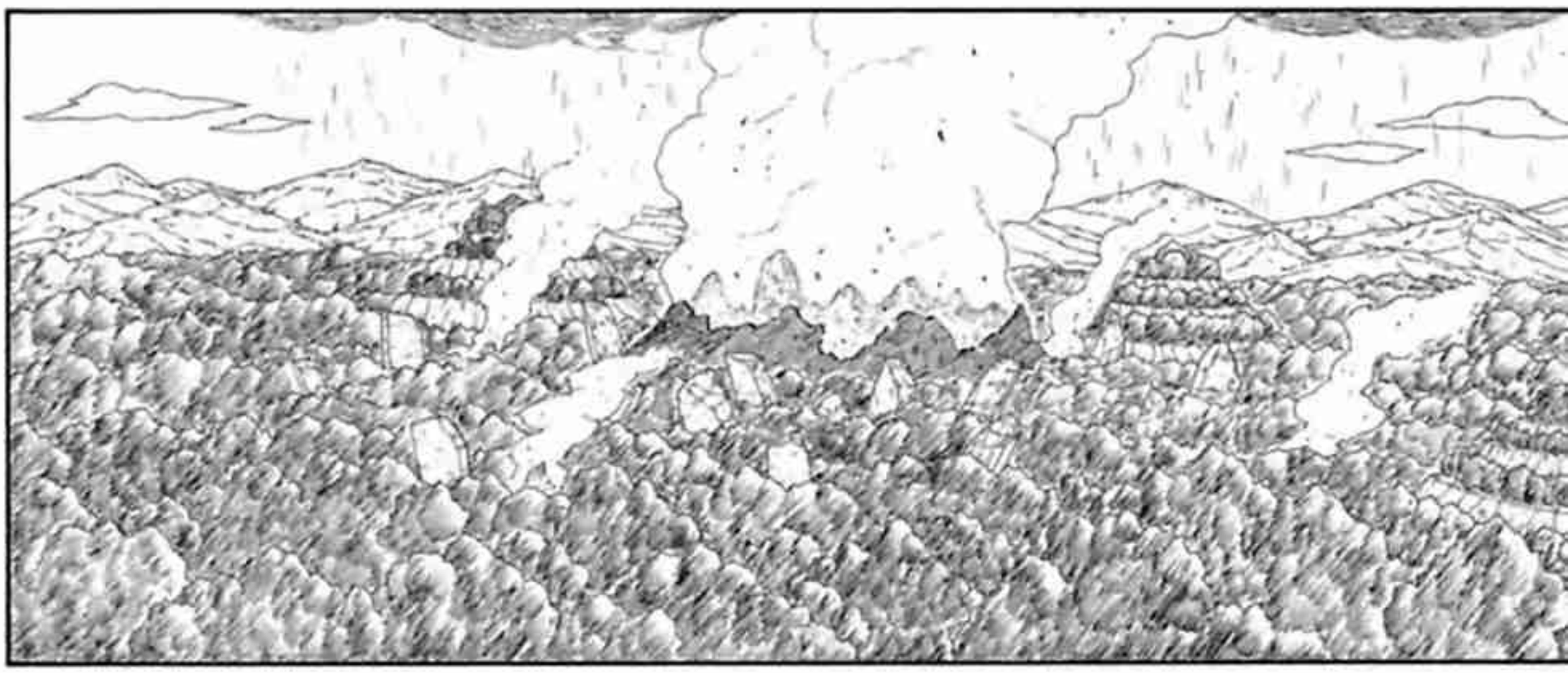
BEGONE WITH THE THUNDER-CLAP...

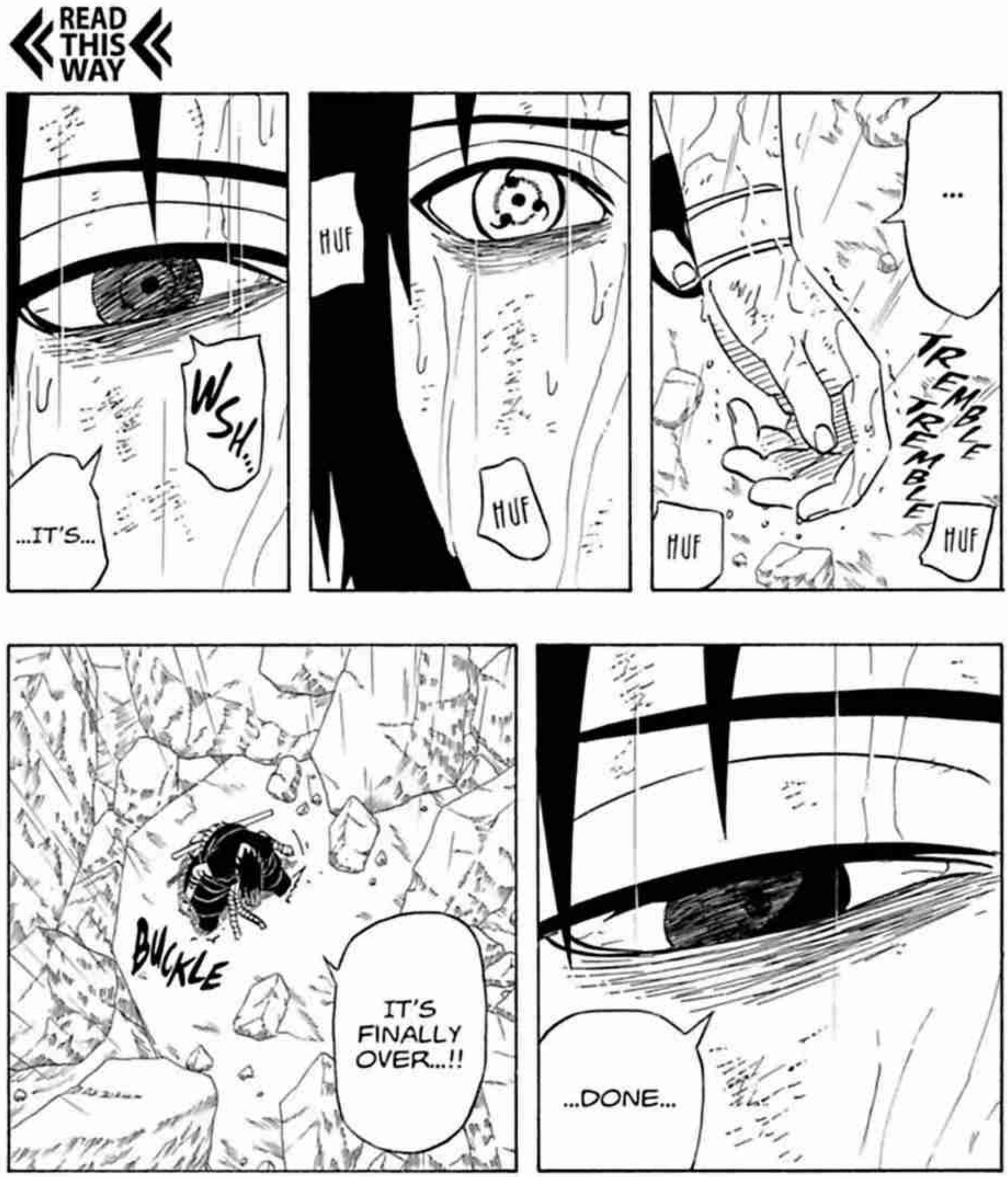
SLASH


FLASH

READ THIS WAY
ARGH!!
CLATTER CLATTER
MUF
MUF
MUF
GAH...
SUCH POWER ...

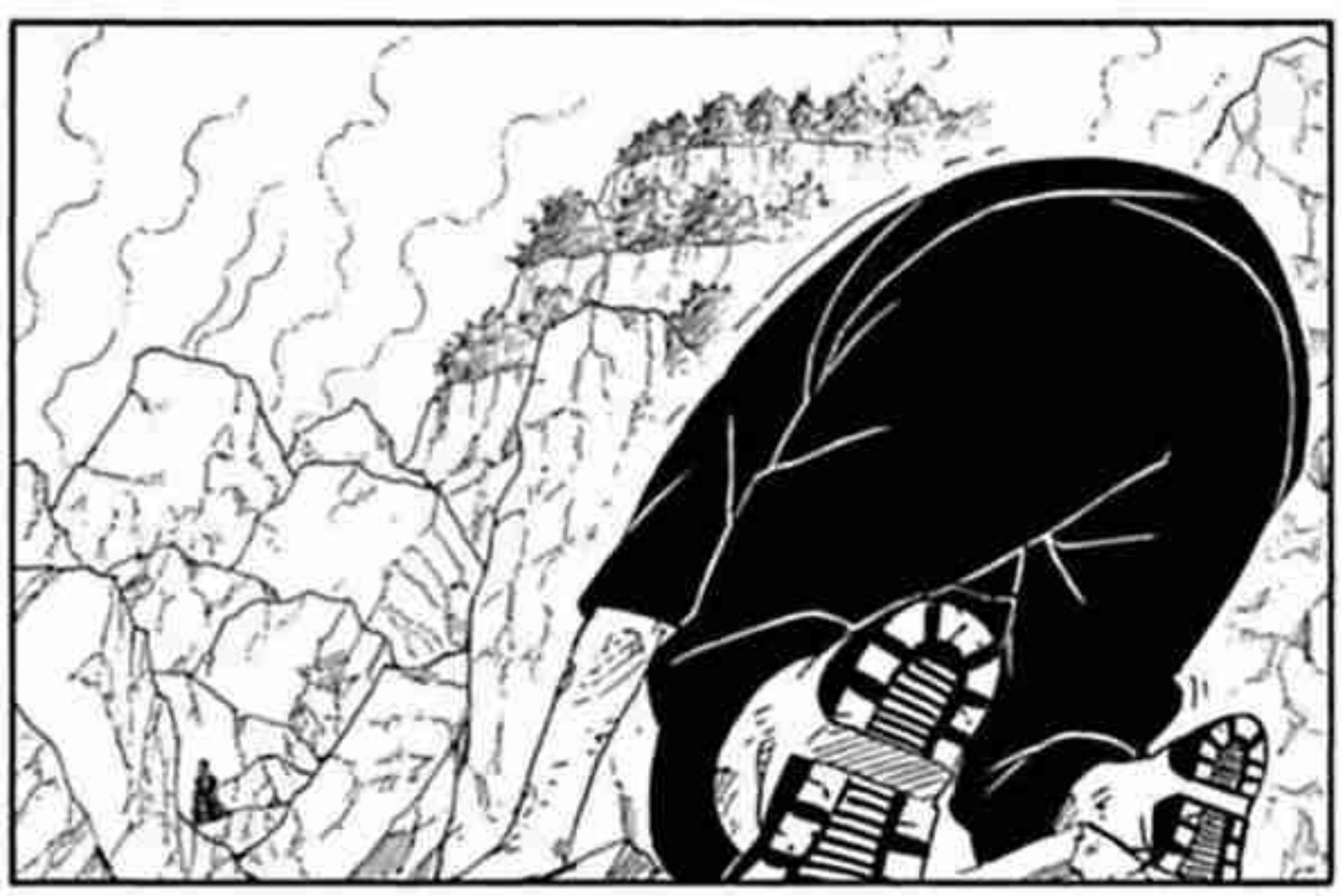
CLATTER CLATTER...




READ THIS WAY
...IT'S...
WSH...
HUF
HUF
...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HUF
HUF
BUCKLE
IT'S FINALLY OVER...!!
...DONE...
IS THIS... THE DEATH YOU HAD IMAGINED FOR ME...?
Pitter
Pitter

!!!

HOIST...



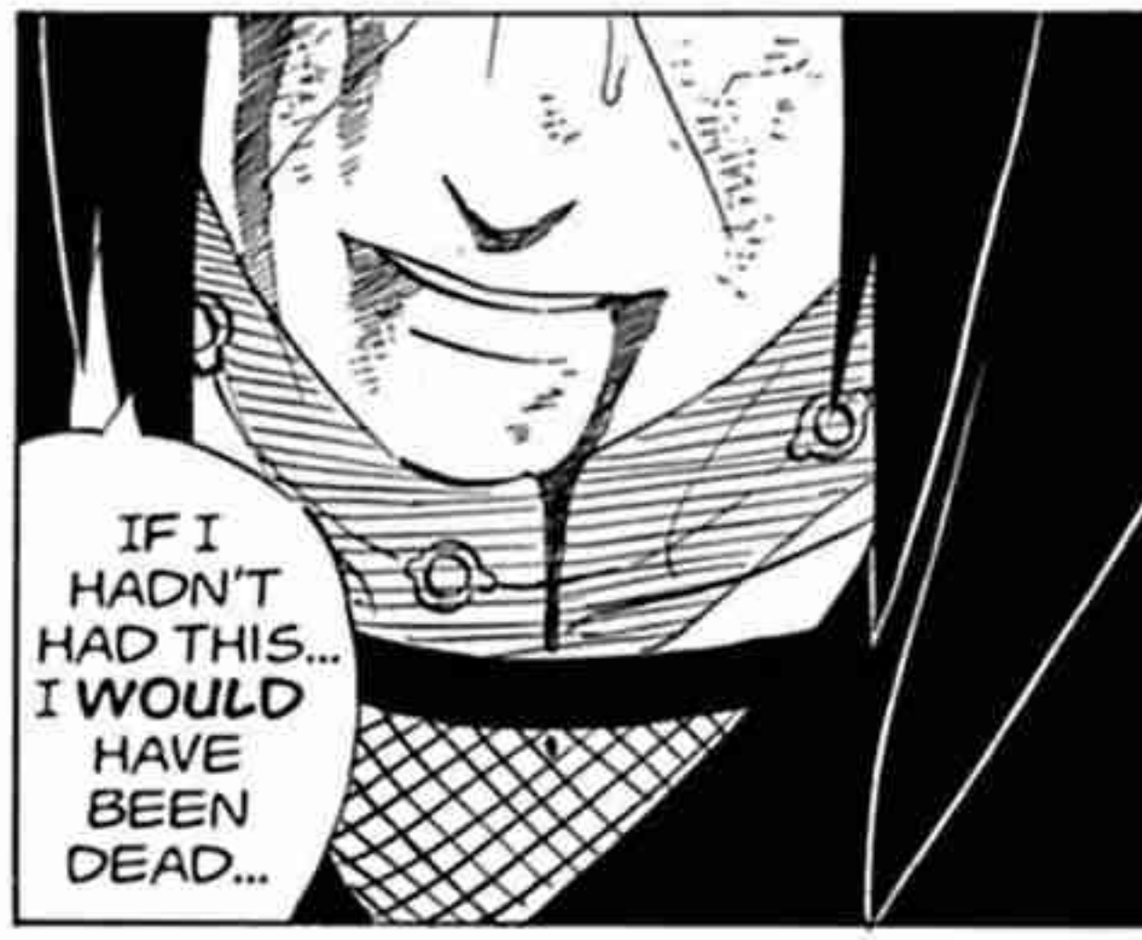
READ THIS WAY
GNASH...
WOOO...
WOOO...
HOW DARE YOU!!!
THAT'S...!
!

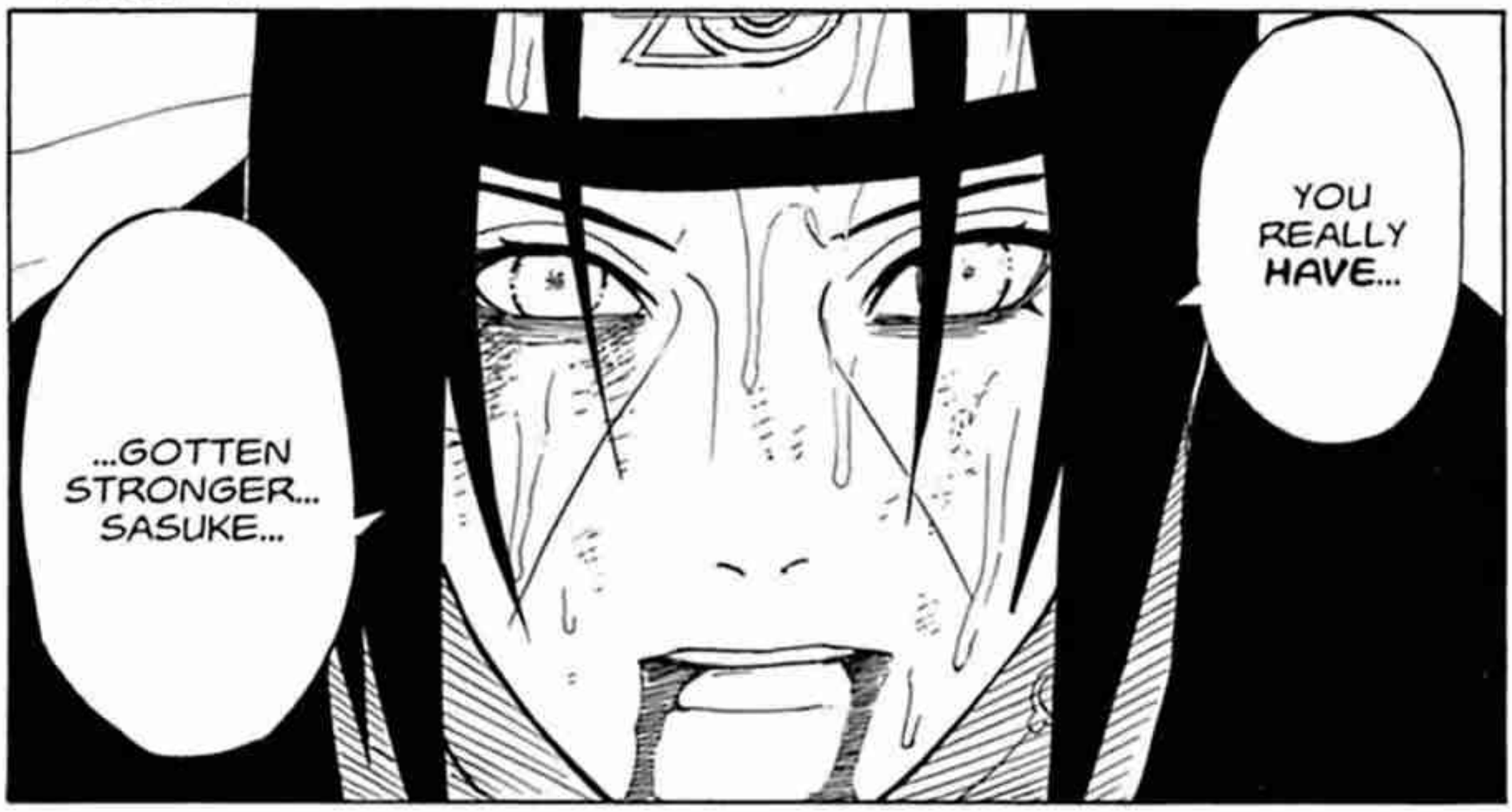
HUF

SWOO...

HUF

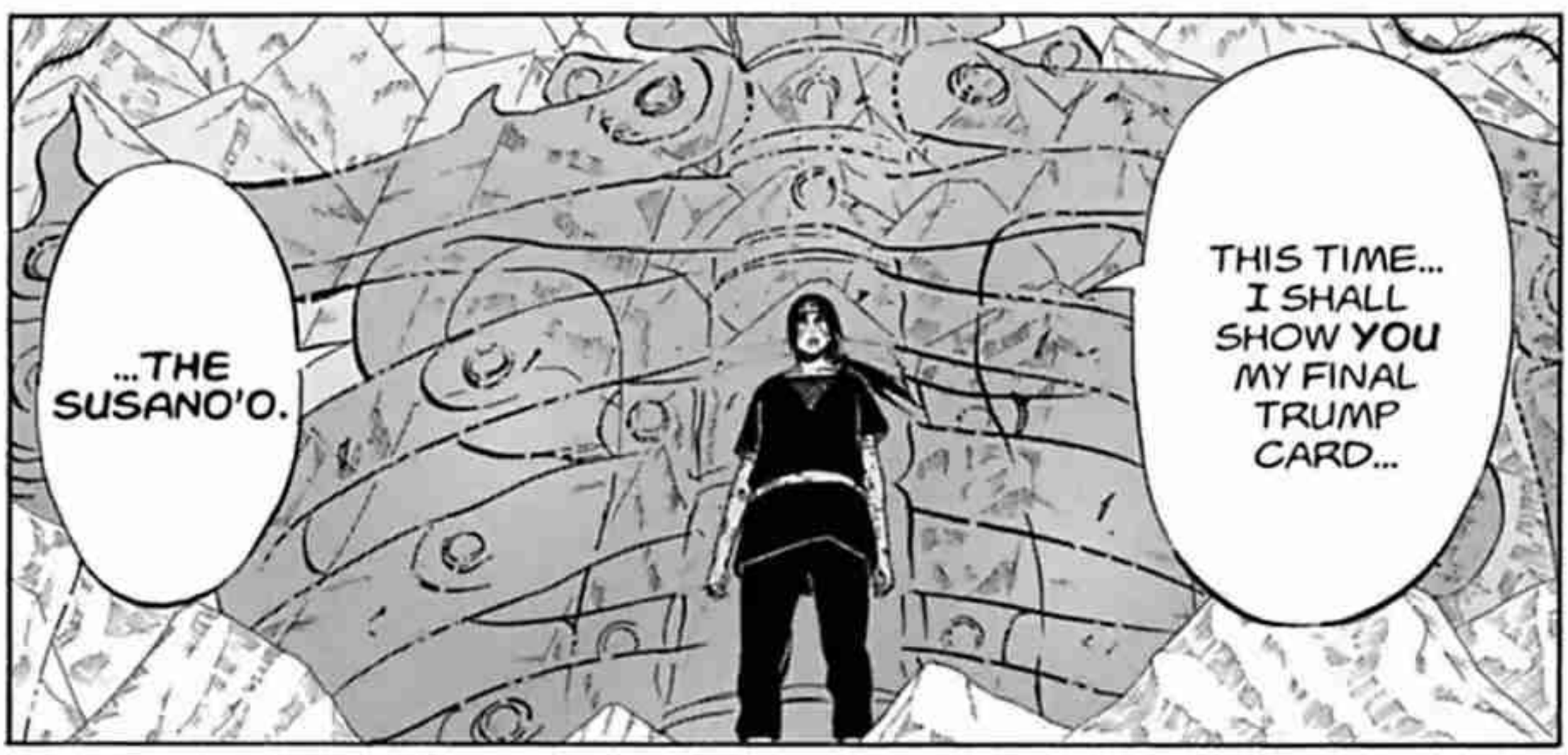
SWOO...




...GOTTEN STRONGER... SASUKE...
YOU REALLY HAVE...

BLANK...

!


...THE SUSANO'O.
THIS TIME... I SHALL SHOW YOU MY FINAL TRUMP CARD...

Number 392: Susano'o...!! zz

THE ONE OTHER JUTSU THAT TOOK ROOT IN MY EYES...

...ONCE BOTH THE TSUKUYOMI AND THE AMATERASU WERE AWAKENED.

MUF

MUF

...SUSANO'O...?

IF YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING ELSE HIDDEN UP YOUR SLEEVE... NOW'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PLAY IT...

SASUKE... IS THAT IT... FOR YOUR JUTSU...?

SWOOO...

RROAR...

MUF

MUF

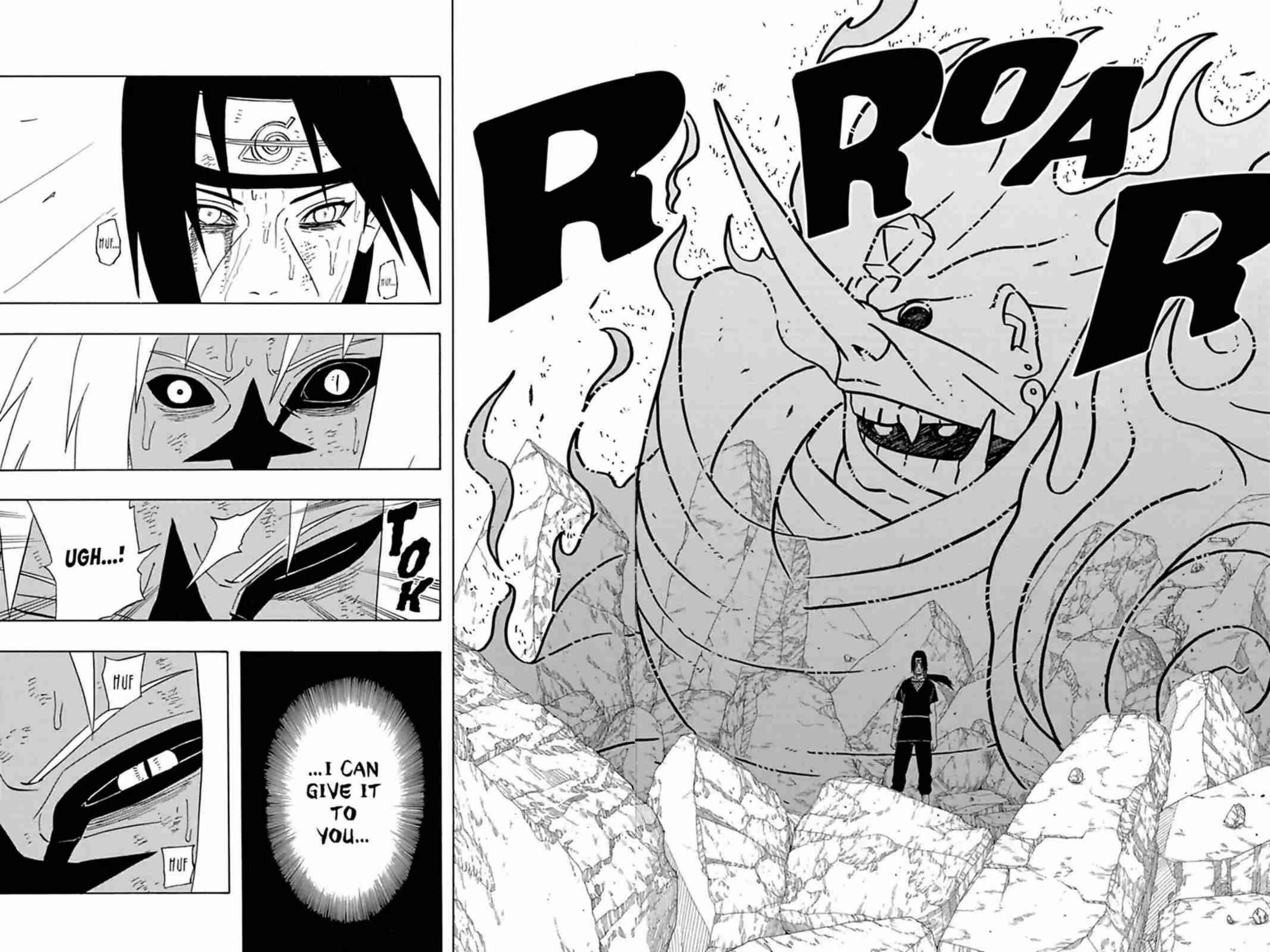
SEEMS LIKE LIGHTNING JUTSU IS A ONE-TIME ONLY TRICK...

THE SKIES ARE CLEAR-ING...

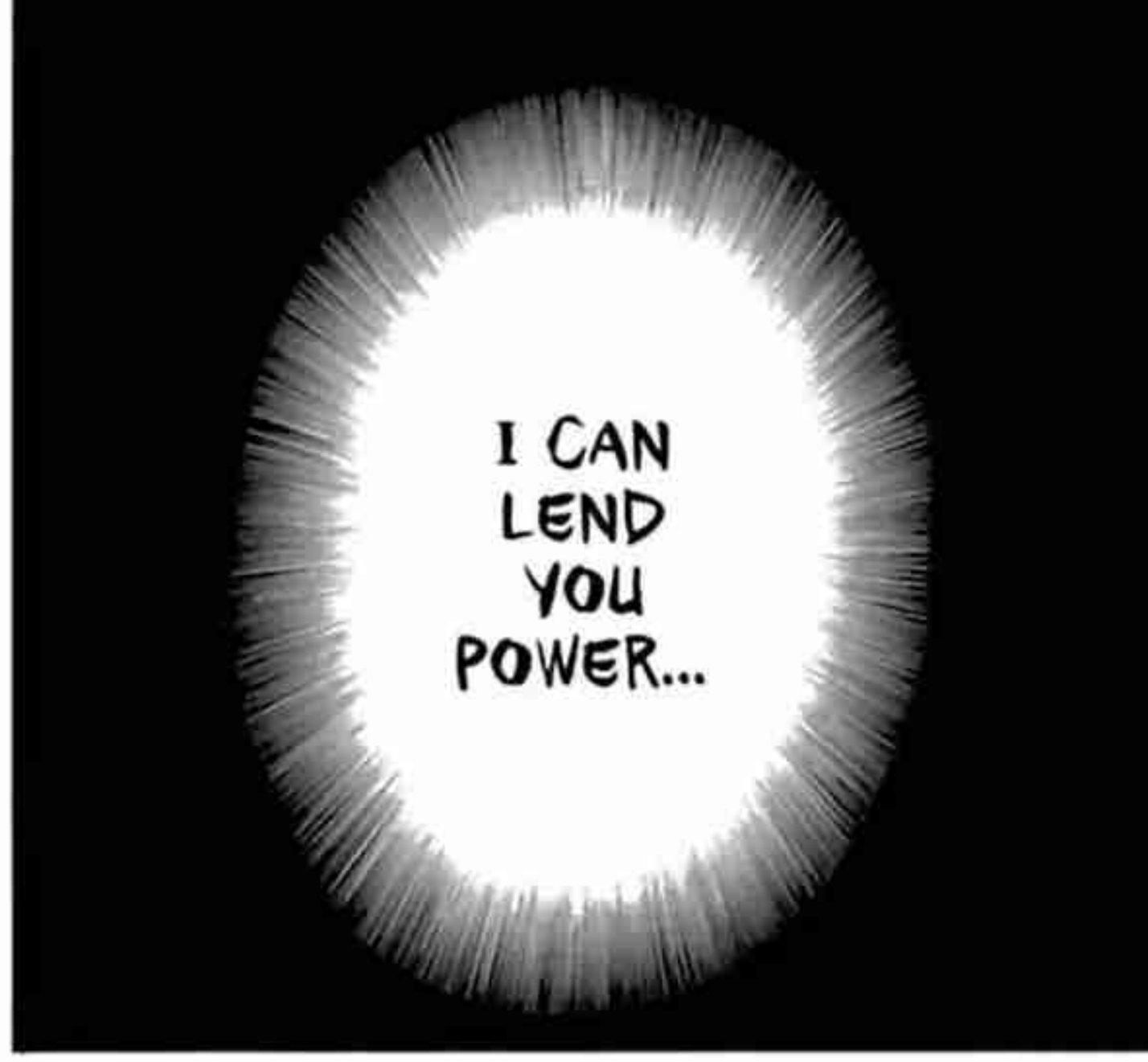
NZOO...

FOR HERE IT COMES FOR REAL ...

READ THIS WAY
SWOO...
SWOO...
SWOO...
SWOO...
!
HUH... WHAT IS THAT?


HUF...
HUF...
UGH...!
TOK
HUF
HUF
...I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU...
ROAR

GAH...!

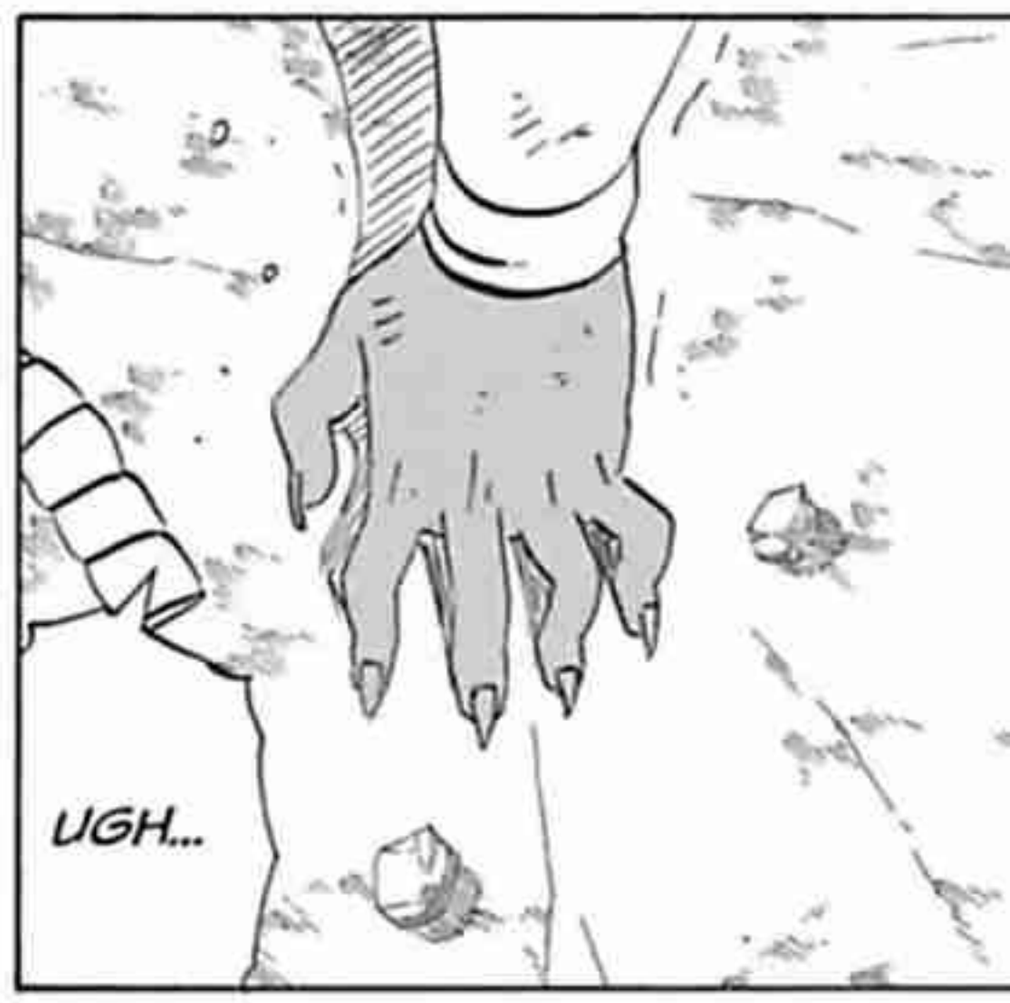

I CAN LEND YOU POWER...

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO TAKE REVENGE ON ITACHI?

THUMP
UNH ...
WRRBLE

DON'T YOU NEED ME... DEAR SASUKE...?

NOW... RELEASE ME! RELEASE MY POWER...
...SO YOU CAN FULFILL YOUR DREAM...


UGH...

READ THIS WAY
MOWND MOWND
UGH...!
MOWND MOWND...
AAH...
...
AAARGH...!!
FWOOSH

THOO

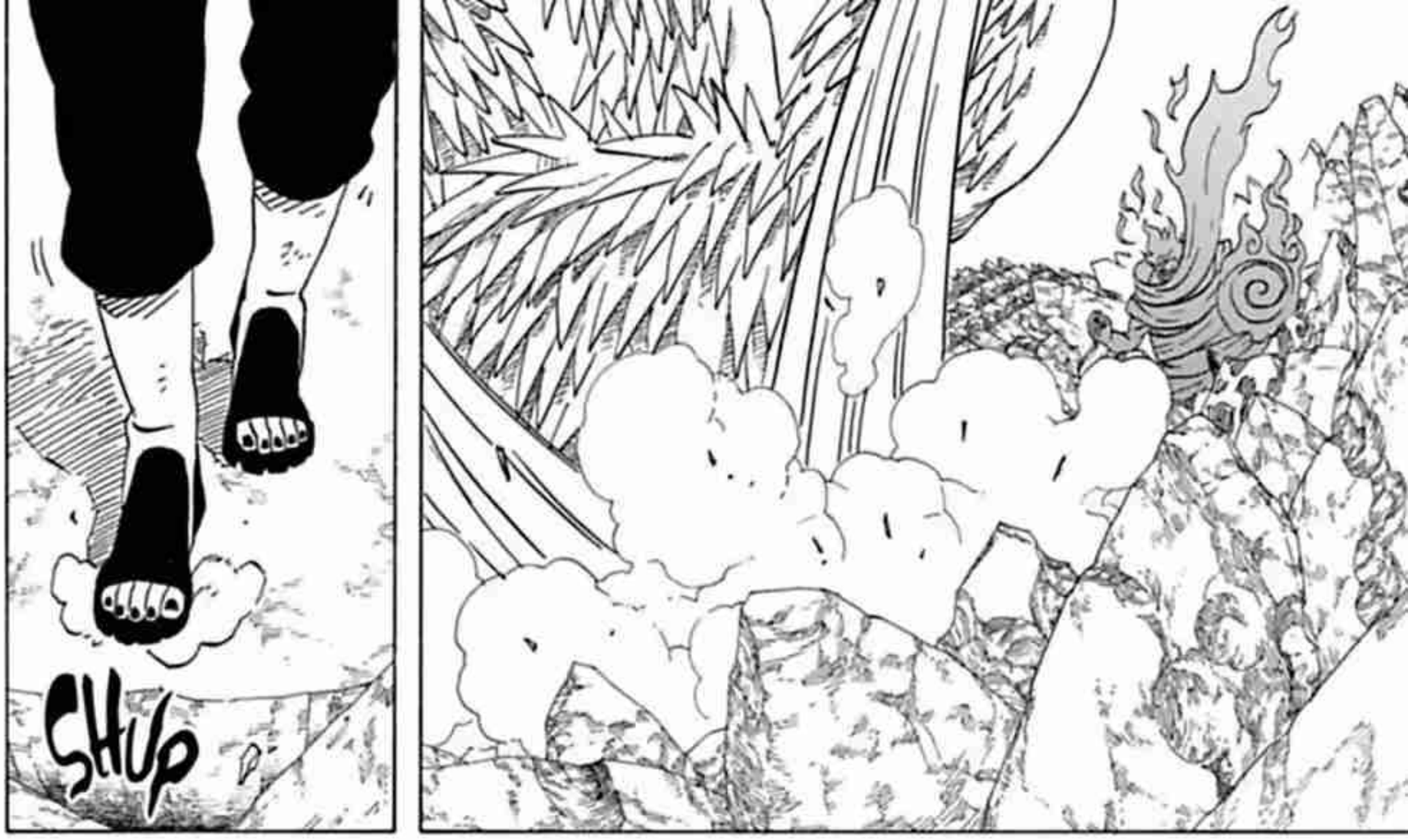
W

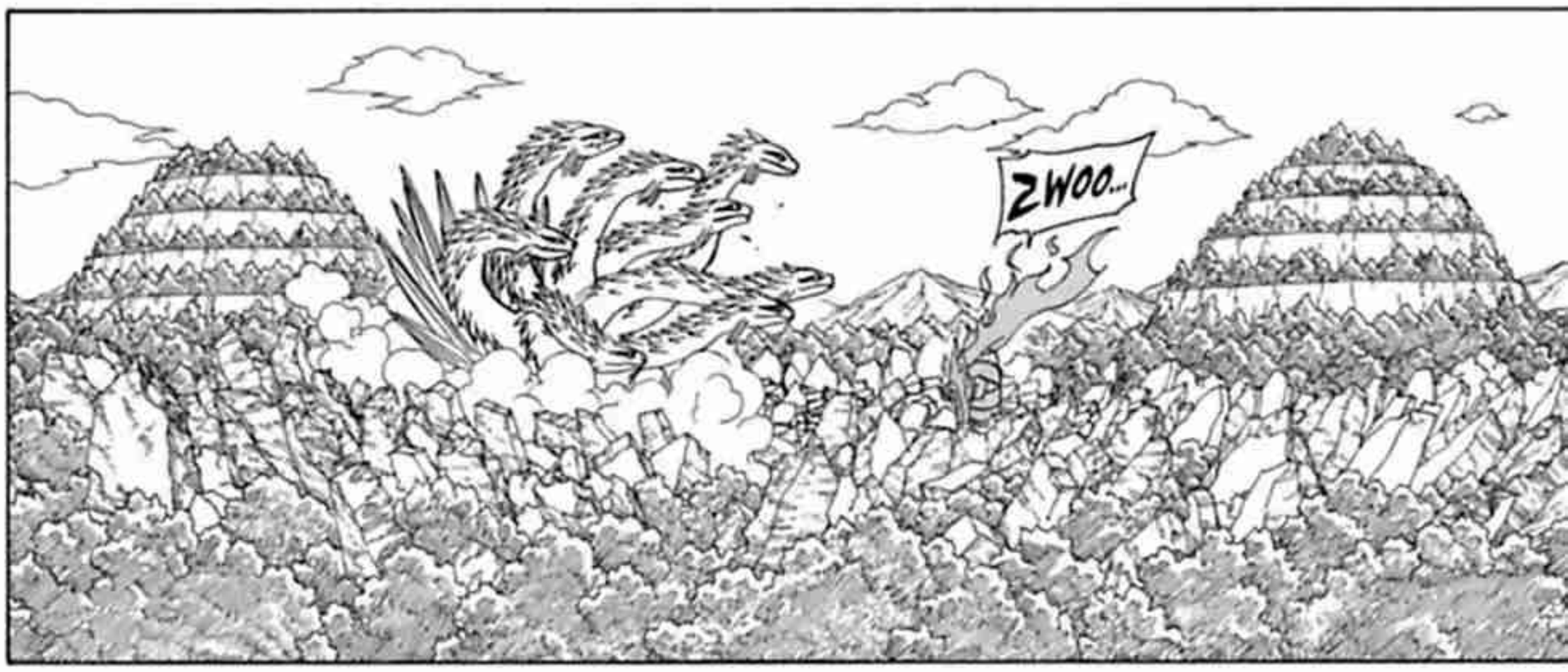
OROCHIMARU'S CHAKRA THAT HE'D ABSORBED AND SUPPRESSED HAS SHOVED ITS WAY TO THE SURFACE...!!

WH-WHAT IS THAT?!
IT'S 'CUZ SASUKE TRIED TO SQUEEZE POWER OUT DESPITE HAVING NO MORE CHAKRA!

JUDGING BY THE FEEL OF IT, THIS IS OROCHIMARU'S ART OF THE EIGHT-HEADED SERPENT...

HSSS!!


SHUP


ZWOO...

SLOSH

HSsss

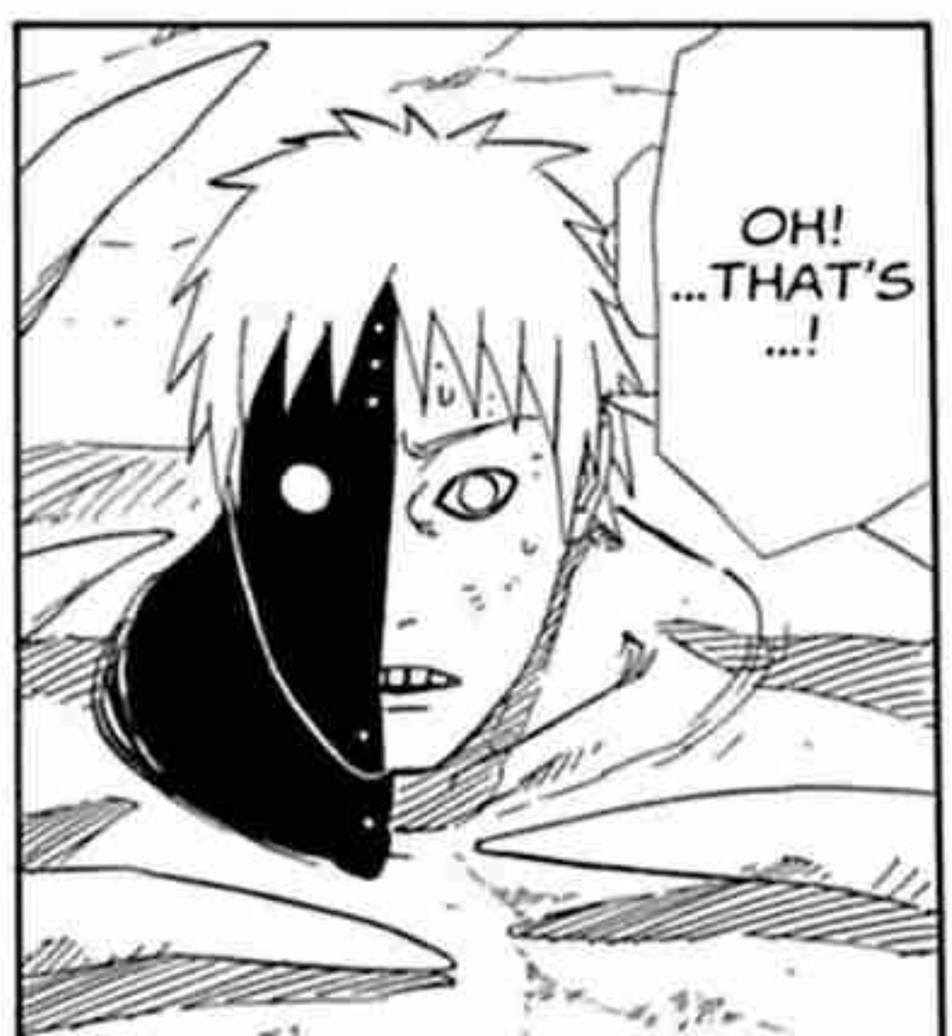
SHA
THUD
FTAP
LASH

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

ZZZ...

WWEEEN

ZZZ...


OH! ...THAT'S ...!

...FINALLY, IT EMERGES ...

A-HA HA HA !!!

NOW I CAN TAKE OVER THE CHILD'S BODY AND...

THANKS TO YOU, SASUKE'S REPRESSING CHAKRA IS GONE!
THIS IS IT!
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

SLITHERING ABOUT LIKE THE SNAKE HE IS.
GROSS FELLOW AS ALWAYS, REGURGI-TATING THINGS.

EH?
SPLUR

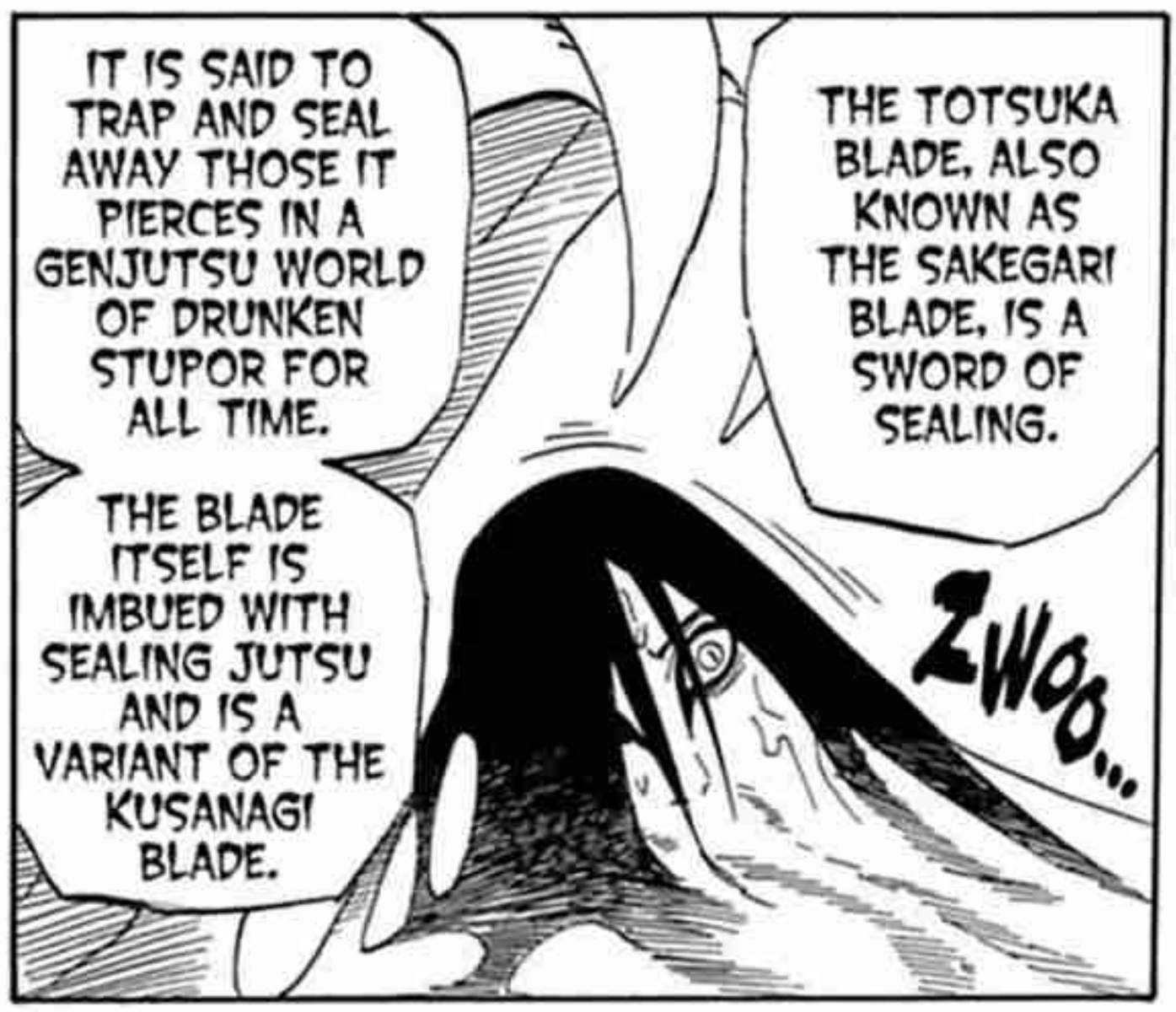
...WHAT NEXT?
WELL, SASUKE...

!!
KREEEK

HEH HEH...
...YOU THINK SUCH A PUNY ATTACK CAN TAKE THE LIKES OF ME DOWN...

UGH!
ZWOO...

ITACHI... YOU HAD IT...?
THIS SWORD! IS IT... THE TOTSUKA BLADE?


IT IS SAID TO TRAP AND SEAL AWAY THOSE IT PIERCES IN A GENJUTSU WORLD OF DRUNKEN STUPOR FOR ALL TIME.
THE BLADE ITSELF IS IMBUED WITH SEALING JUTSU AND IS A VARIANT OF THE KUSANAGI BLADE.
THE TOTSUKA BLADE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE SAKEGARI BLADE, IS A SWORD OF SEALING.
ZWOO...

IT'S A SPIRIT BLADE THAT HAS NO PHYSICAL FORM...
NO WONDER NO ONE'S BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE IT...
WH-WHAT'S WITH THAT SWORD ...?

ZWOOO

OCULAR POWERS... AND ALL THESE JUTSU... ITACHI REALLY IS SUPER-STRONG!
OROCHIMARU HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS SWORD FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

ZWOOO

SNIP
SNIP
HUF
HUF

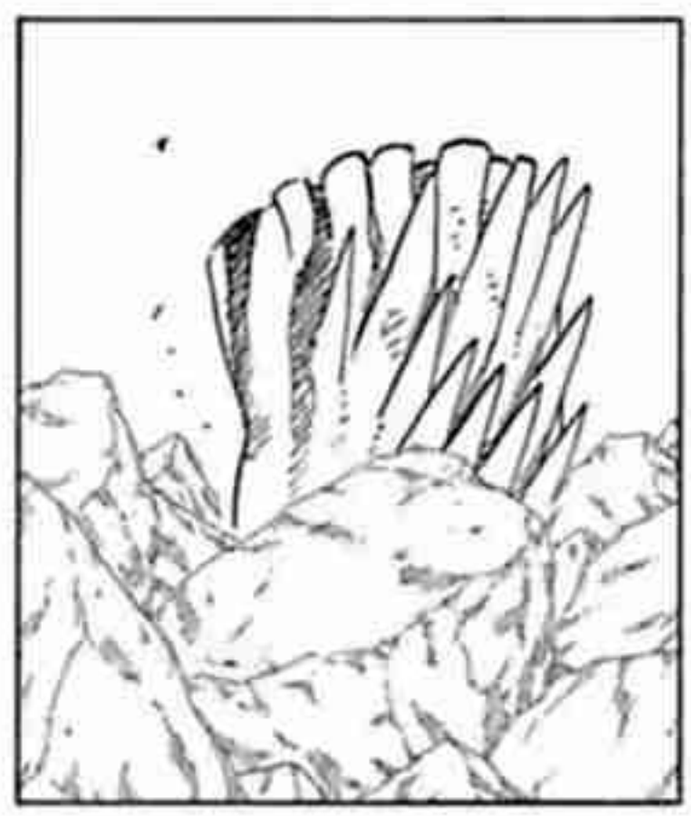
THIS IS IT... SASUKE.

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS, PART 12
ASSISTANT NO. 12: TAIRA KENJI

PROFILE

- DESPITE BEING A BRAT WHO JUST TURNED 20, HE'S SO SERIOUS HE'S NOT CUTE AT ALL.
- DOESN'T WARM UP TO ME AT ALL.
- ALWAYS ACTS COOL.
- HAS ALL SORTS OF FUNNY THOUGHTS IN HIS HEAD THAT HE NEVER SHARES.
- AMBITIOUS AND VERY STUDIOUS.
- HASN'T WON ANY AWARDS BUT DEBUTED PROMINENTLY.
- I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAS A STRONG GAG SENSIBILITY.
- LOVES *JOJO* OVER *NARUTO*! ARAKI HIROHIKO-SENSEI OVER KISHIMOTO MASASHI!!
- LOVES *JOJO* SO MUCH, HE ONLY WARMS UP TO ME WHEN I TALK ABOUT *JOJO*.

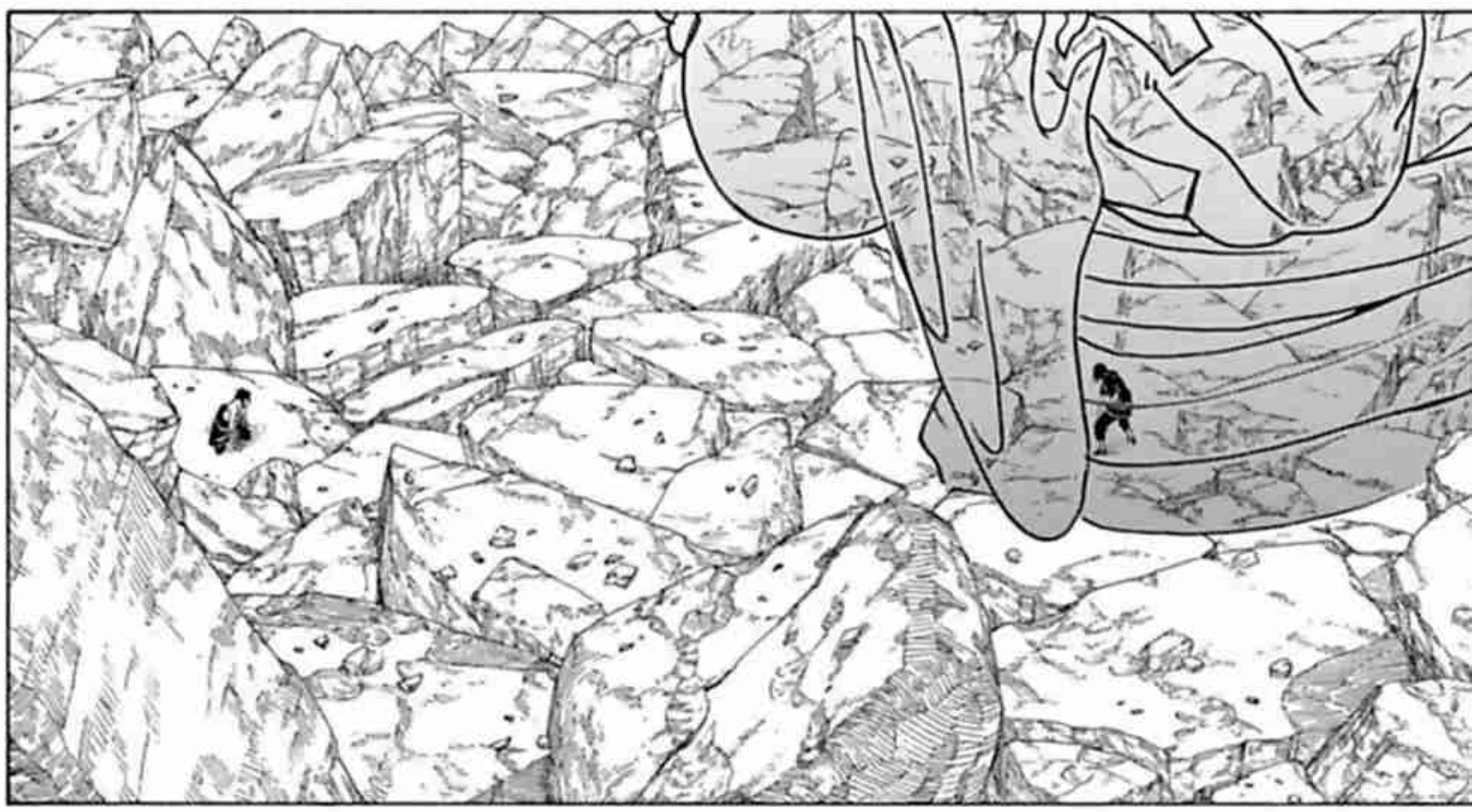
Number 393: My Eyes...!!



...SURE SEEMS HARD ON THE WIELDER'S BODY.
THAT JUTSU HE CALLS SUSANO'O...

HACK!
HACK!

HUF
HUF

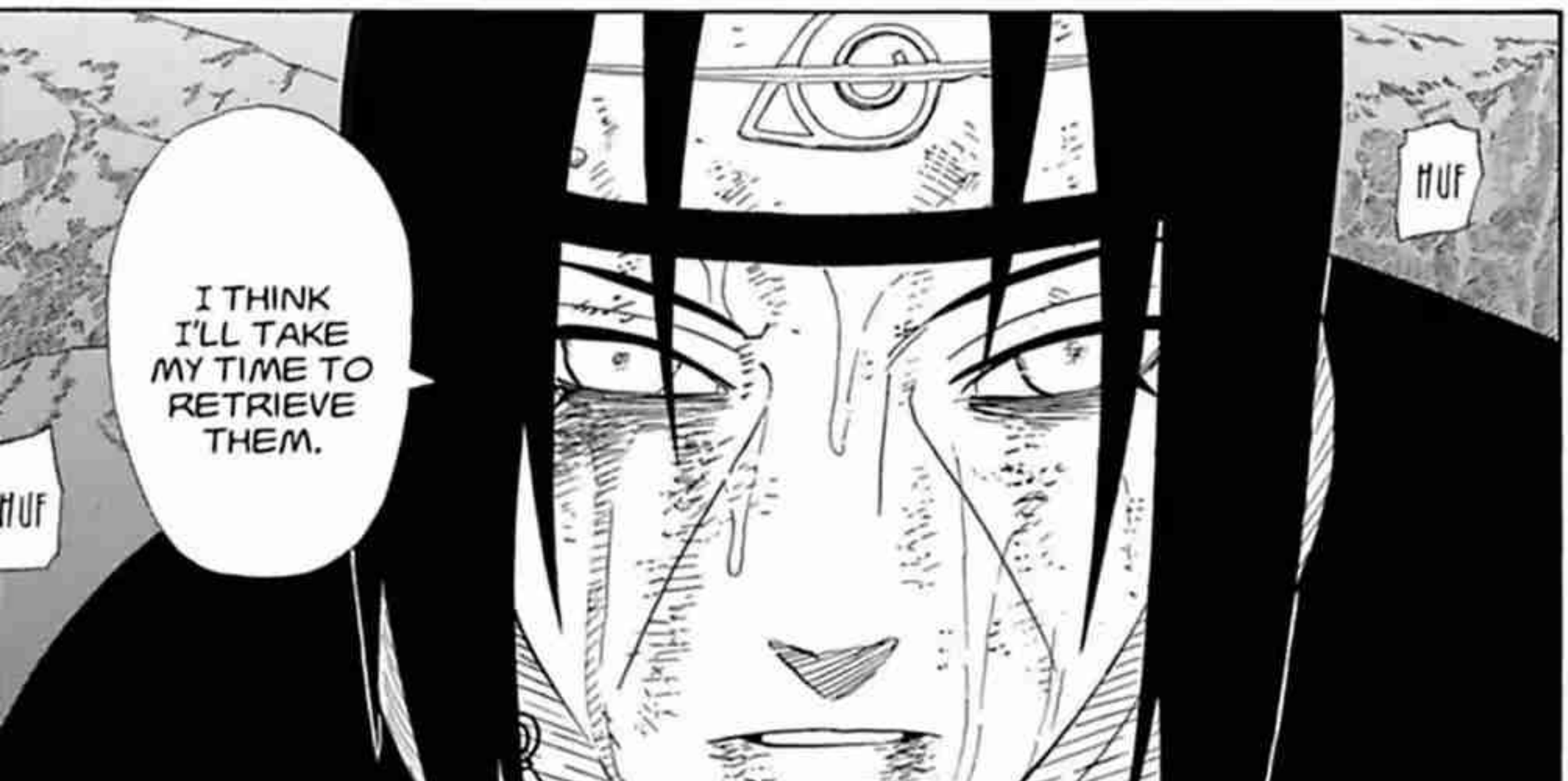


...AND HE'S BEEN STRIPPED OF OROCHI-MARU...
SASUKE CAN NO LONGER MAINTAIN HIS SHARIN-GAN...
...SO ITACHI'S WON?

HUF
HUF

YOUR EYES ARE MINE.

Number 393: My Eyes...!!



?!

UGH!

UGH

!

HACK!!

KLUNK

COUGH

HACK

SOME-THING'S NOT QUITE RIGHT WITH HIM...?

WHOA! WHAT?!

WHOOO...
SWOOO...
!
KLAK
FTAP
SWOOSH

KER BAM

HUF
HUF
HUF

KRUNCH

GAH!
FBRRRR

SHUP

...
UNH...

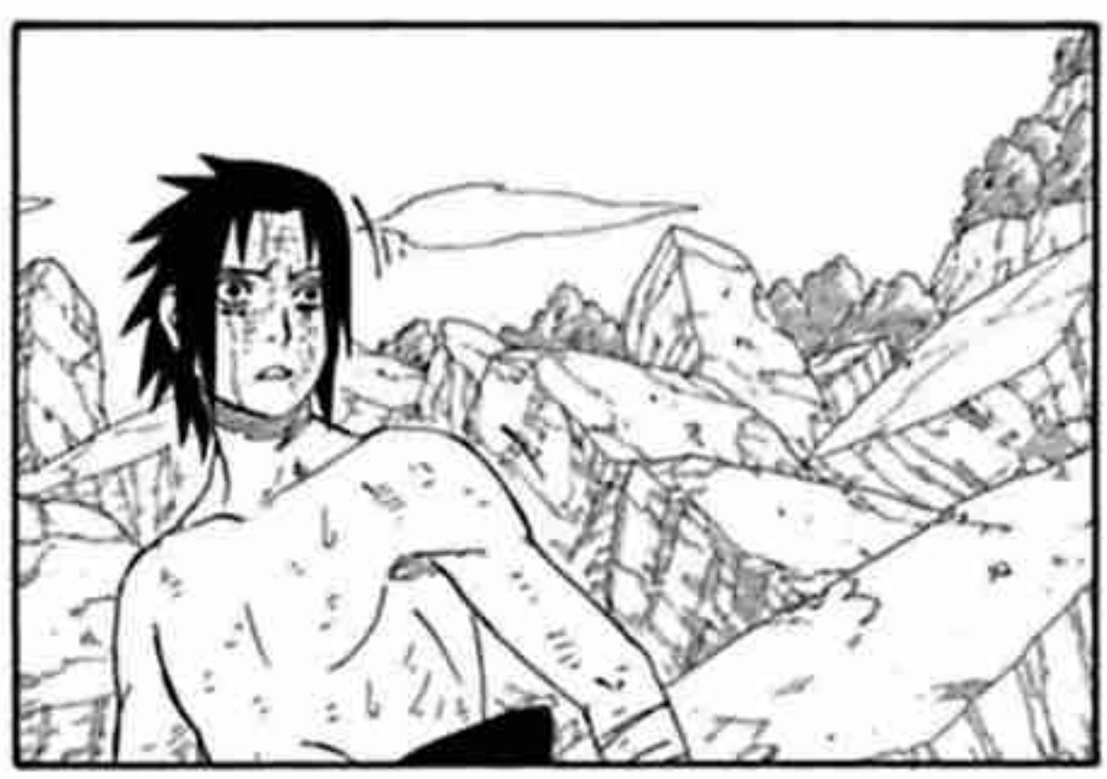
SHUP

RRRRRRL

NO!!
FRR

RRROAR!!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM

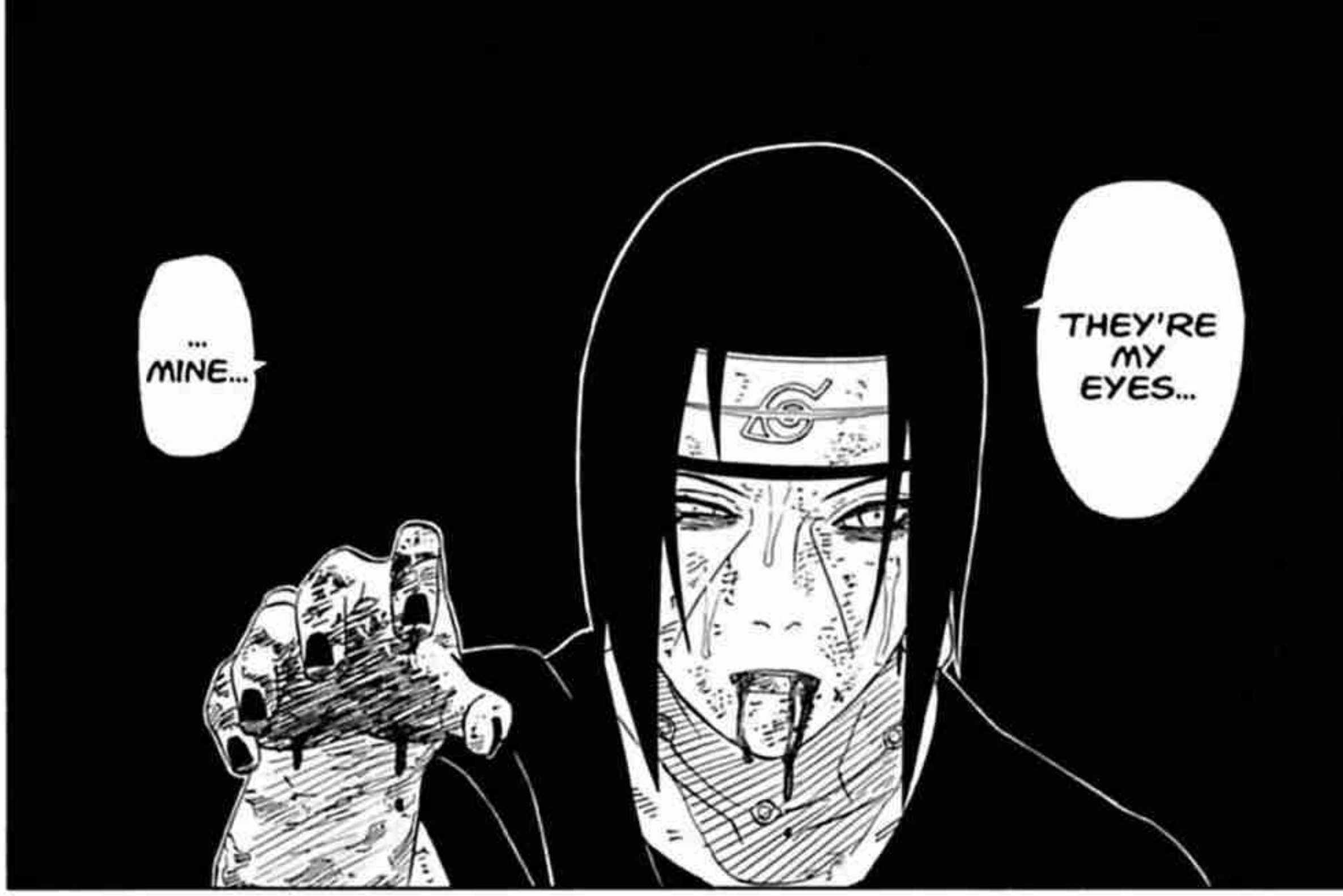
KATOK KATOK...



SHUP

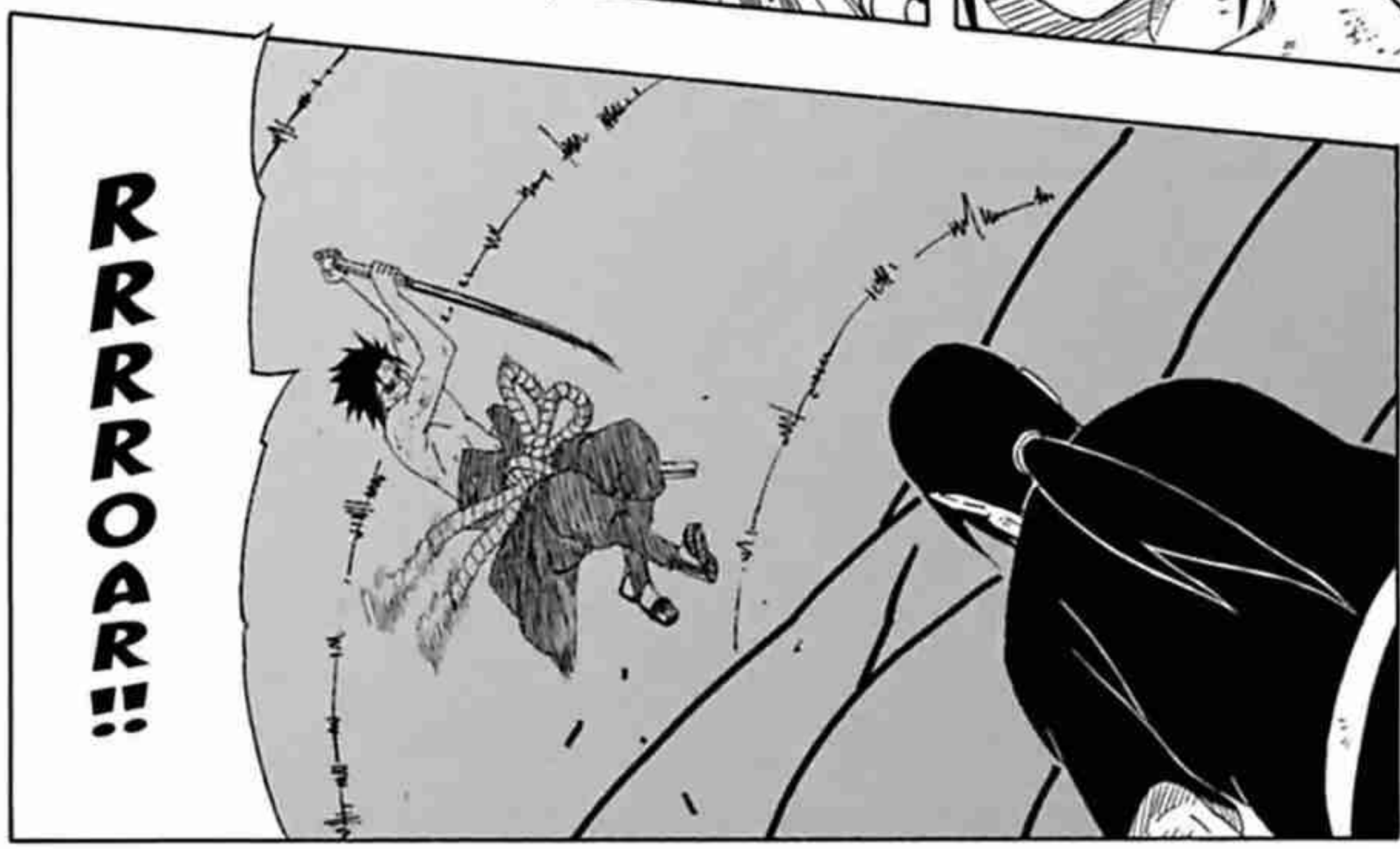
...HE'S INVINCIBLE...!
NO MISTAKE... THAT SHIELD IS ANOTHER SPIRIT WEAPON.
IT'S CALLED THE YATA MIRROR AND IS SAID TO DEFLECT ALL THINGS... SO COMBINED WITH THE TOTSUKA BLADE...

...ITS SHIELD IS REPELLING ALL OF SASUKE'S ATTACKS...!
THIS SUSANO'O JUTSU...


...
MINE...
THEY'RE MY EYES...

FAP

KACHAK


RRRROAR!!

ARGH!!
BWAM

K-
KEN

!
SHUP

UGH...

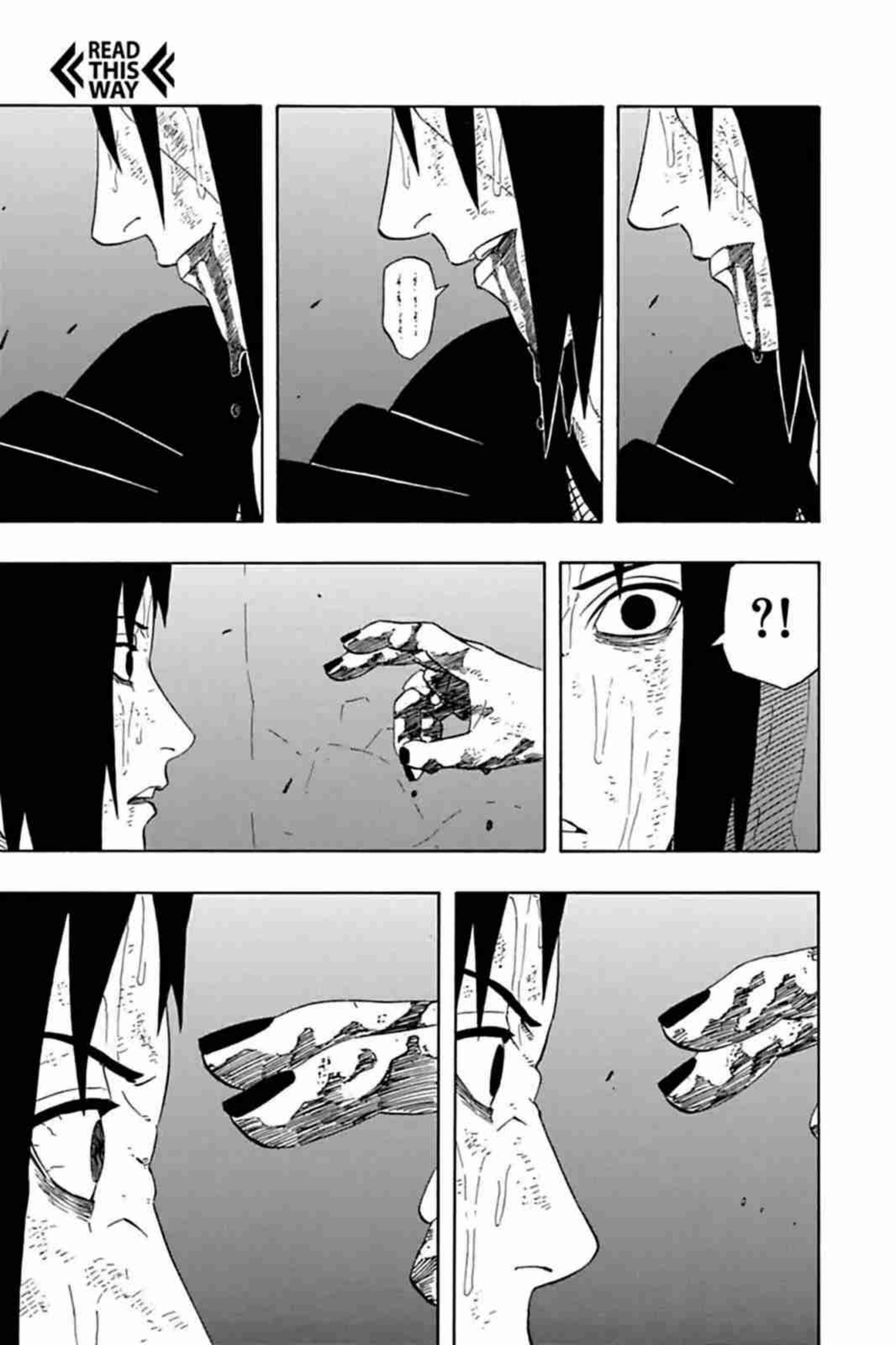
?!
TAP

FSH

HUF
HUF
UNNH

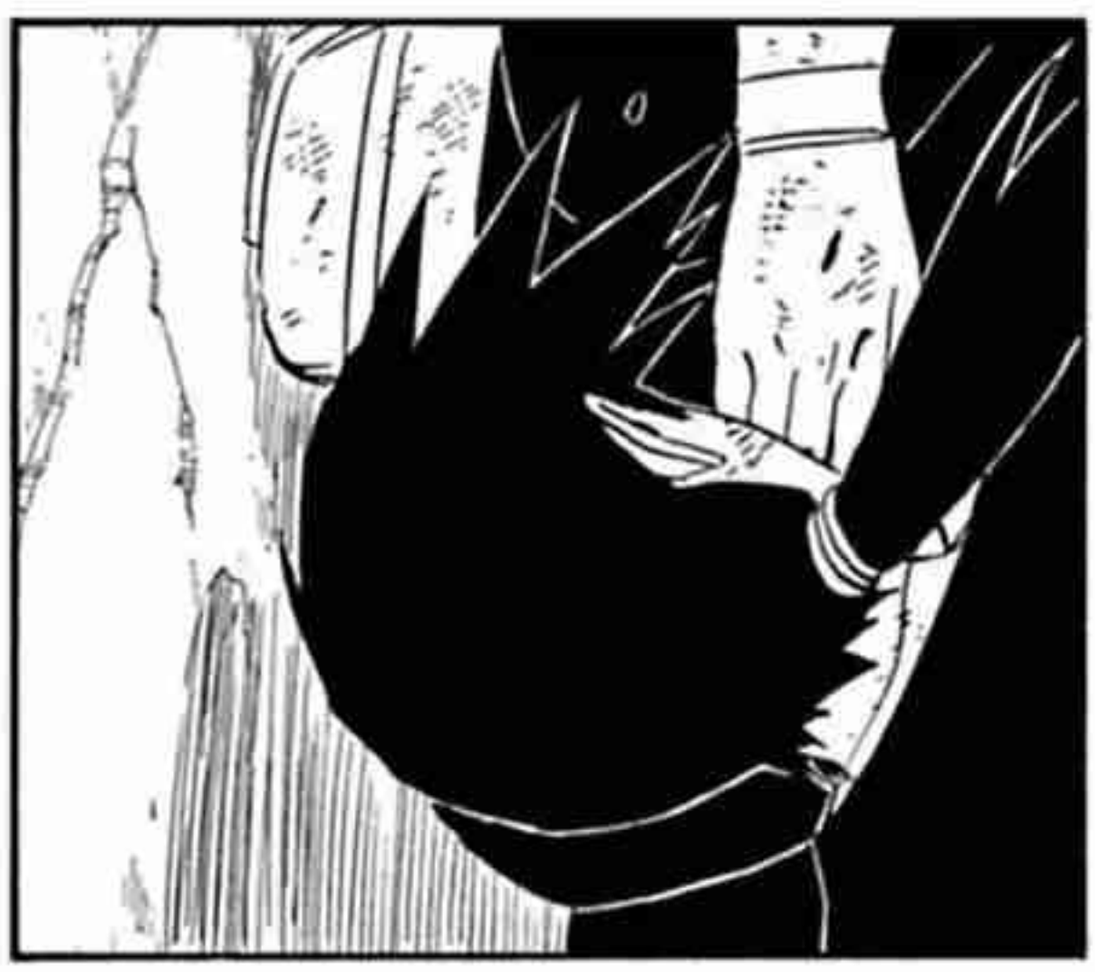
A WALL...!

SHUP

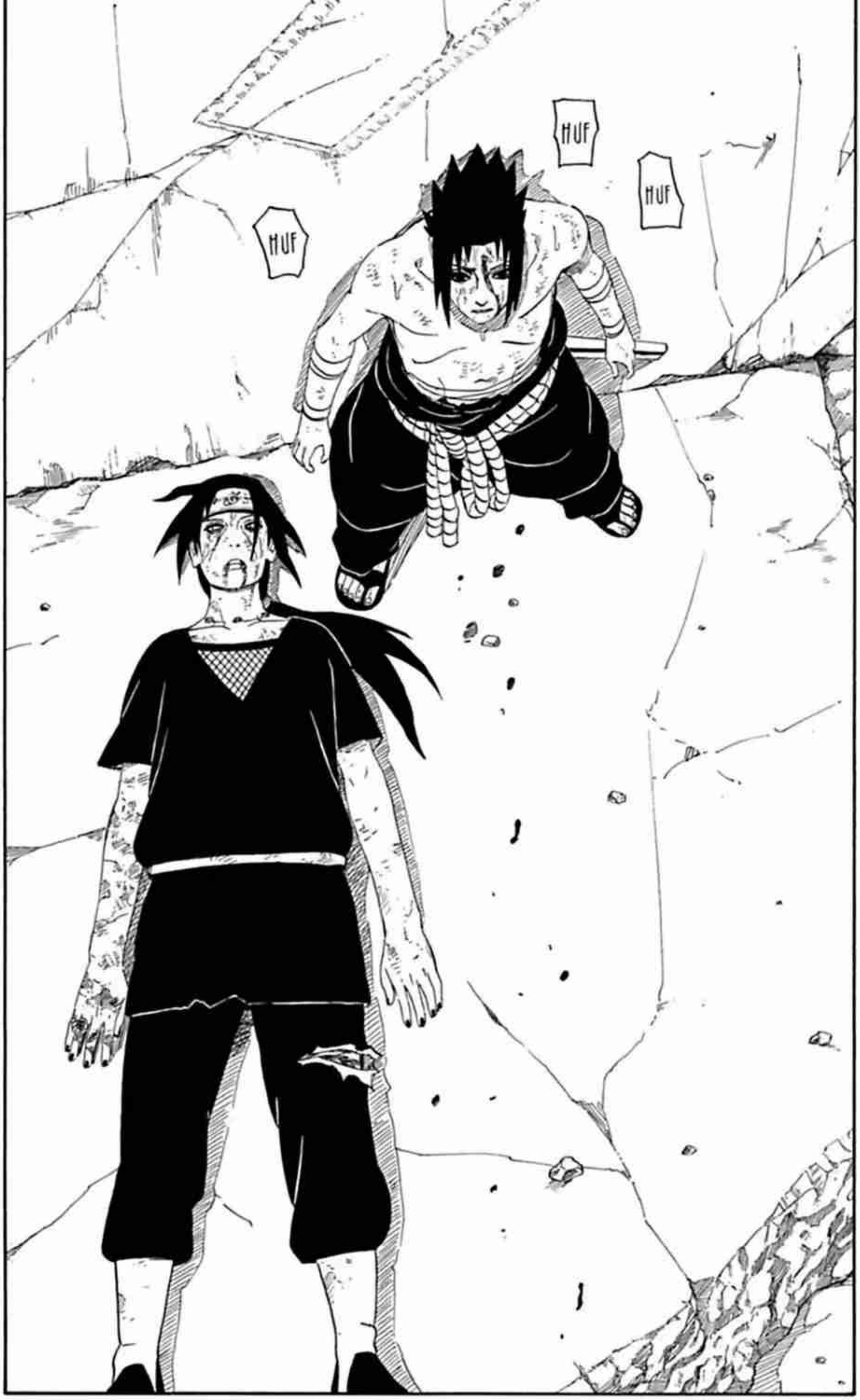

READ THIS WAY
?!

TOK

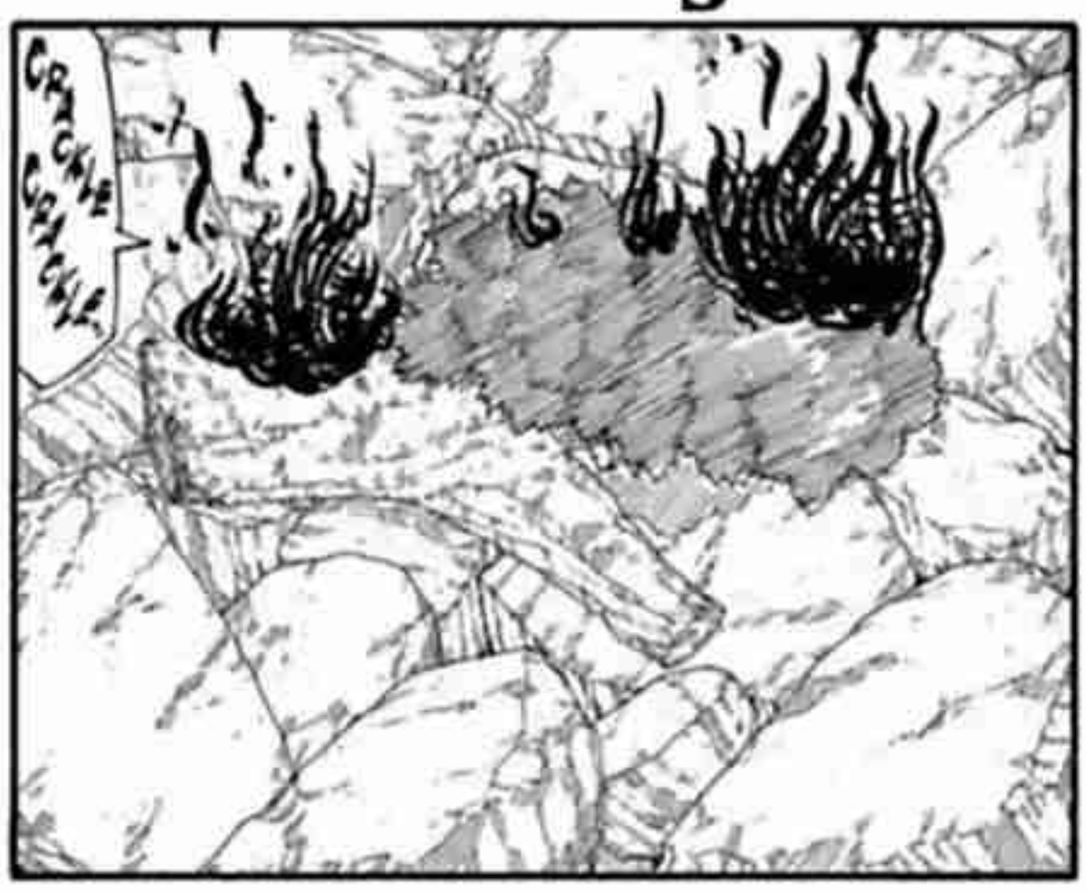
WRRBLE

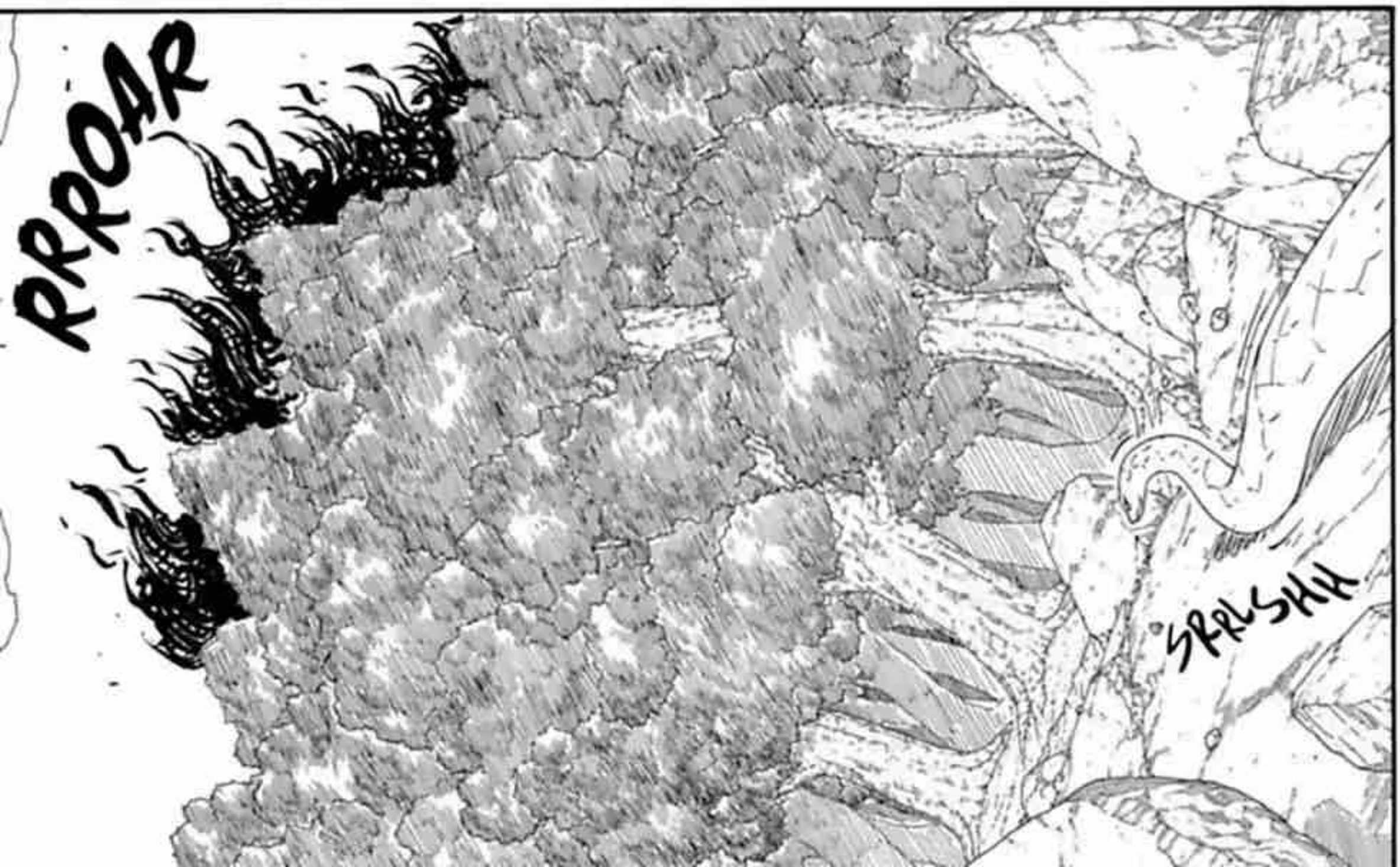


SRRLSHH...


HUF
HUF
HUF

Number 394: Sasuke's Victory





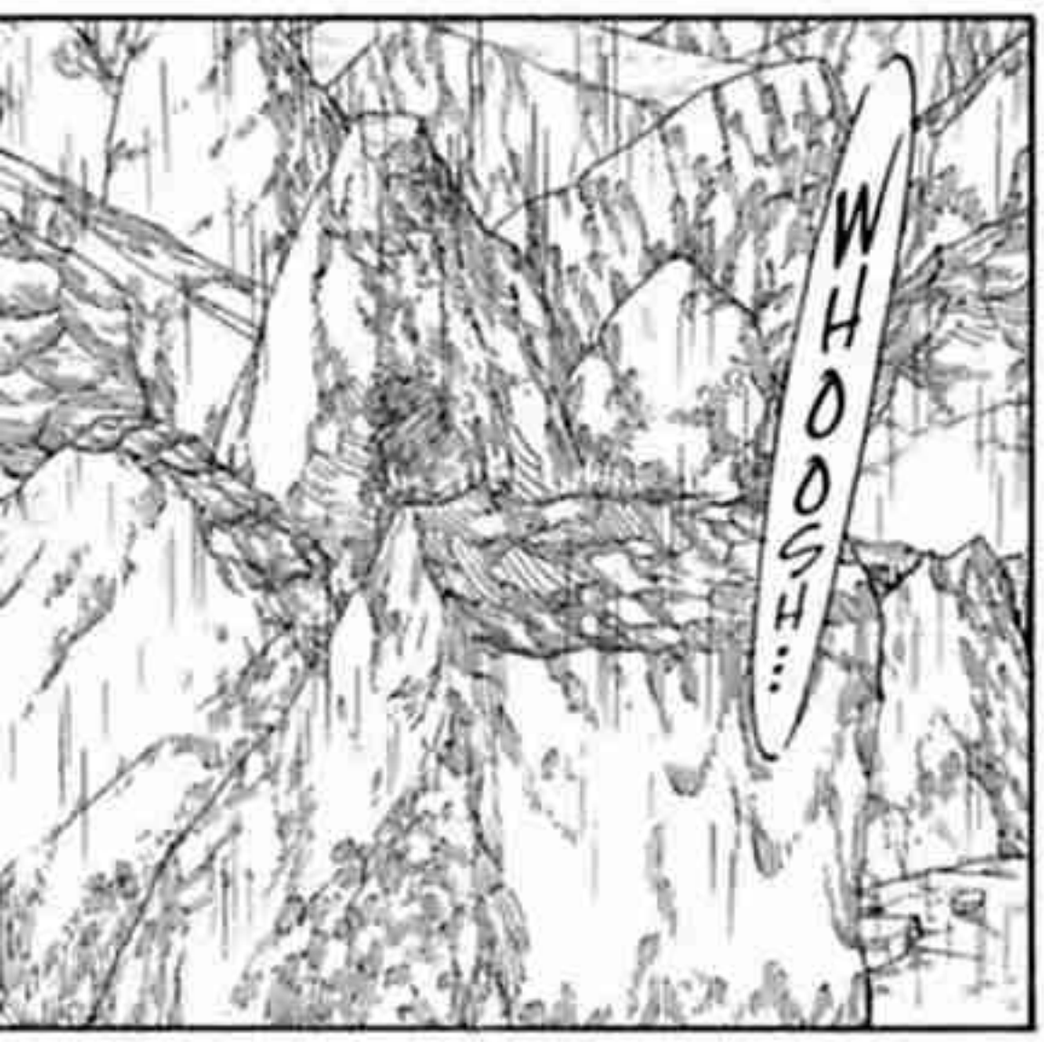
Number 394: Sasuke's Victory

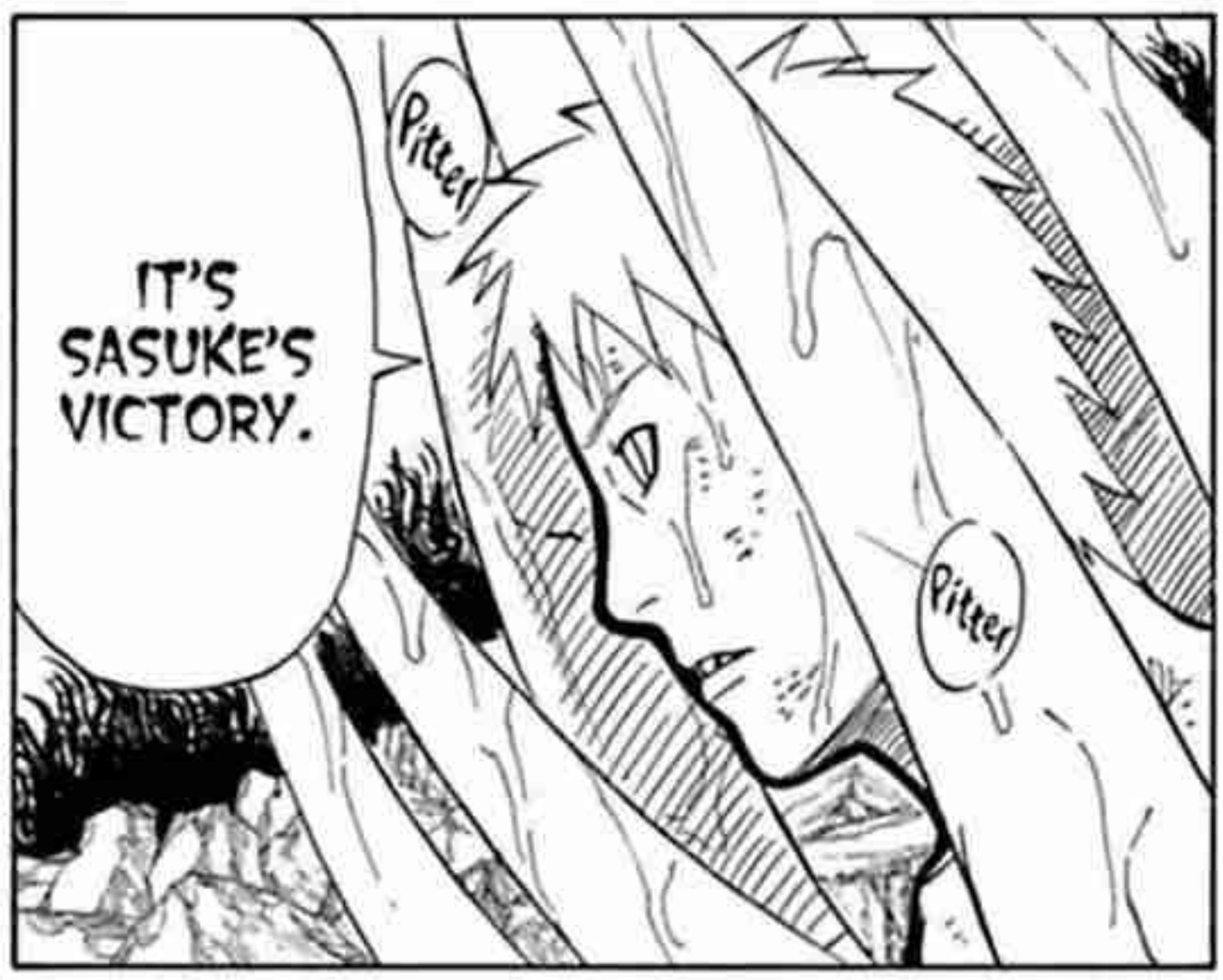
ITACHI WENT DOWN...?

...DEAD?

SWOO-
RUMBLE

SWOO...


WHOOSH...


IT'S SASUKE'S VICTORY.
Pitter
Pitter

WHOOSH...

GET WHAT?
I STILL DON'T GET IT...

FOR SURE...

HE'S MOVING STRANGELY ...

...DON'T YOU THINK SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT?

I KNOW ITACHI'S STRONGER THAN THIS...

ITACHI MAY HAVE BEEN HARBORING SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE FROM BEFOREHAND...

HE COUGHED UP BLOOD...

HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EVADE THOSE ATTACKS.

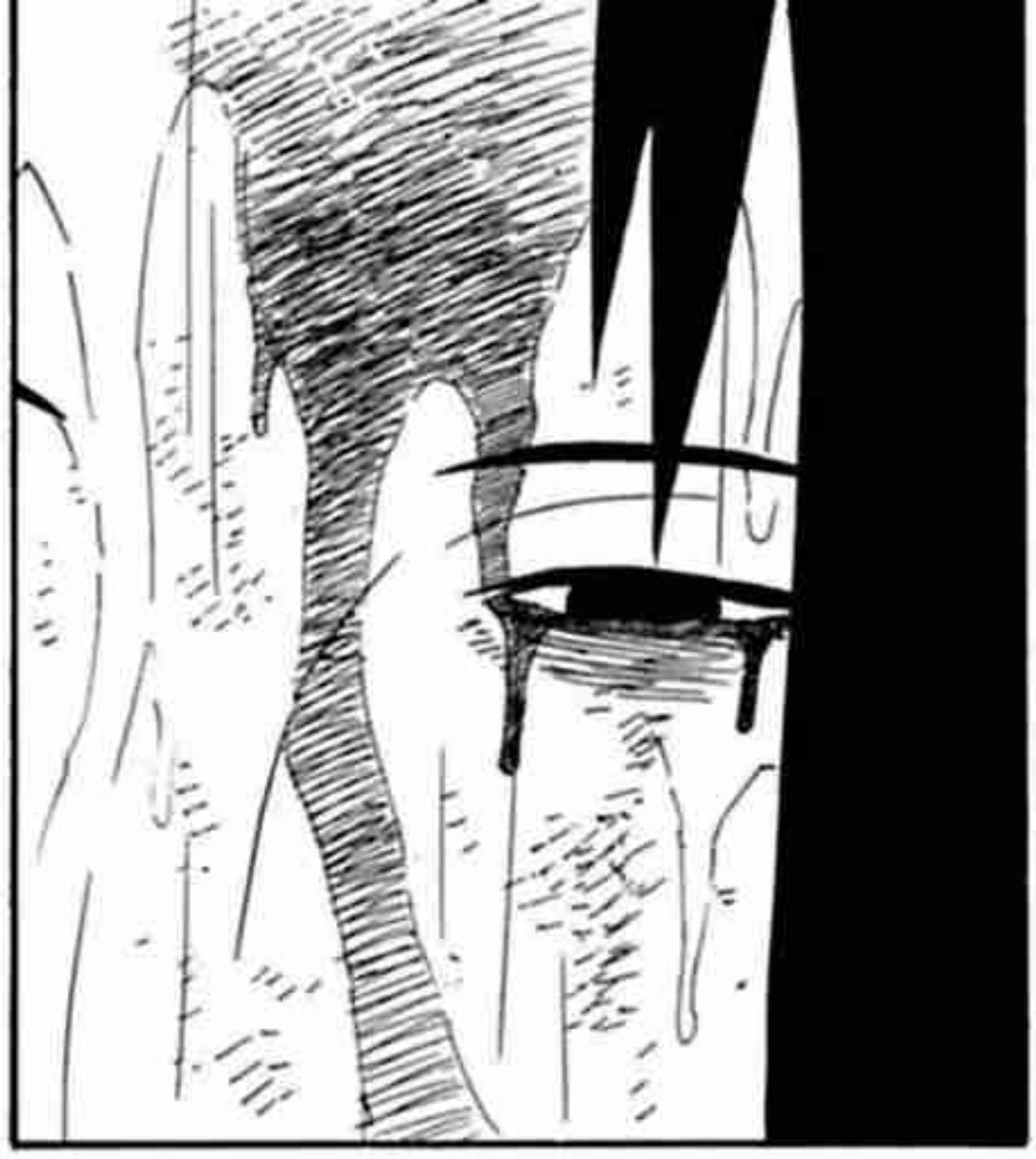
TOK

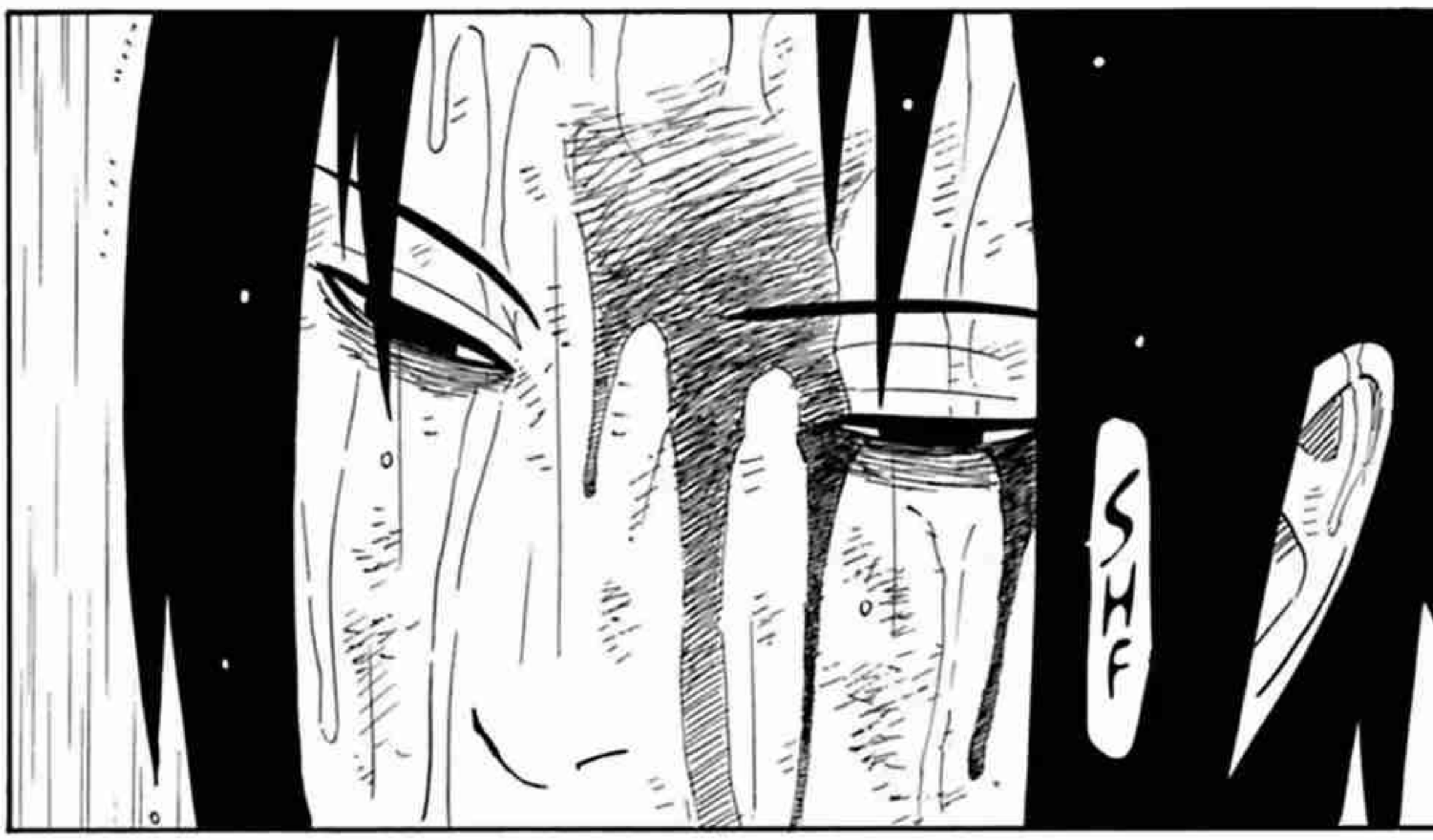
NOT SURE... I DON'T THINK WE CAN DRAW ANY CON-CLUSIONS...

DID HE OVERUSE THE SHARIN-GAN?

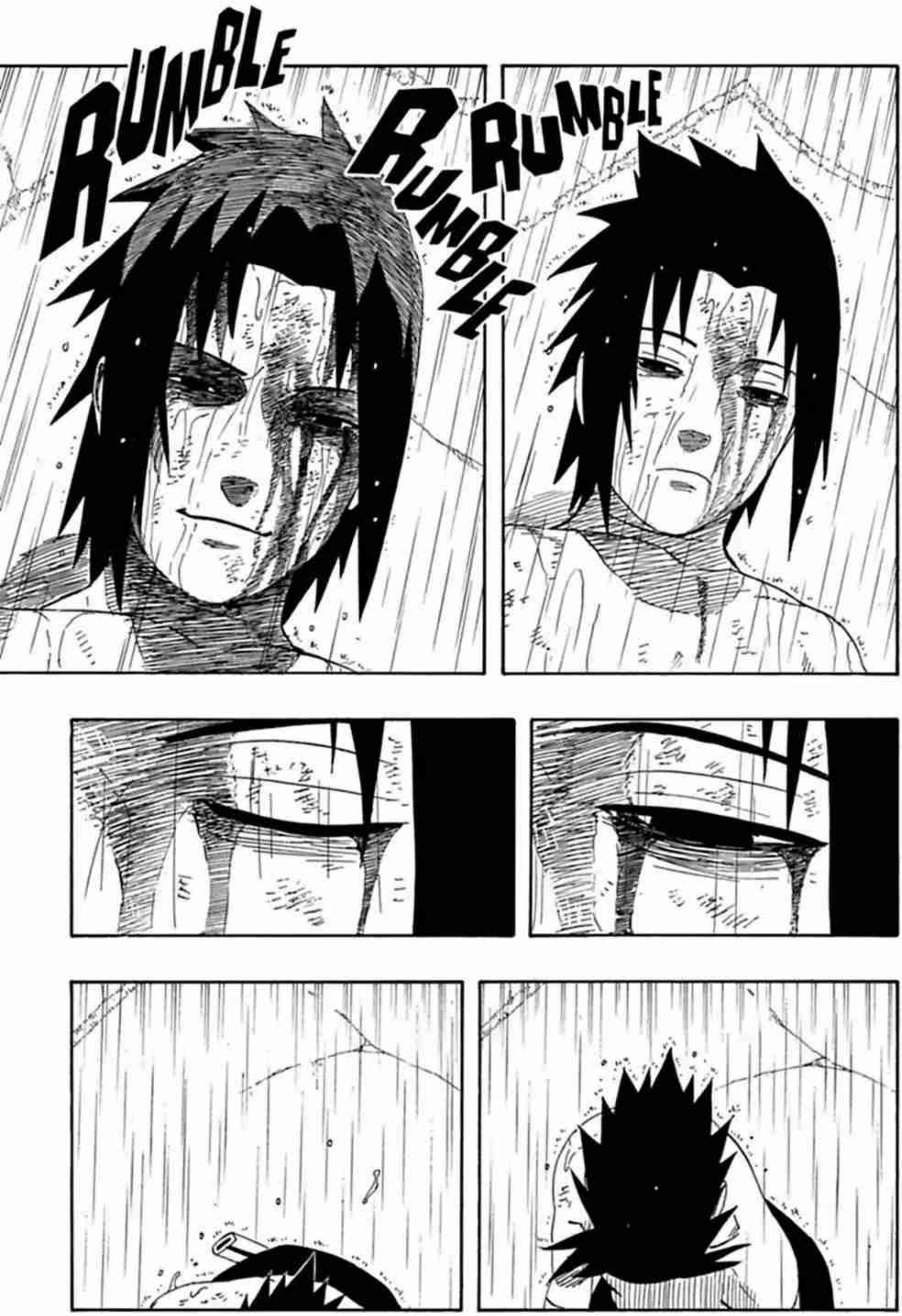
WHOOSH
HUF
HUF

ZWOO...
HE WAS SO CLOSE TO GETTING SASUKE'S EYES, TOO...

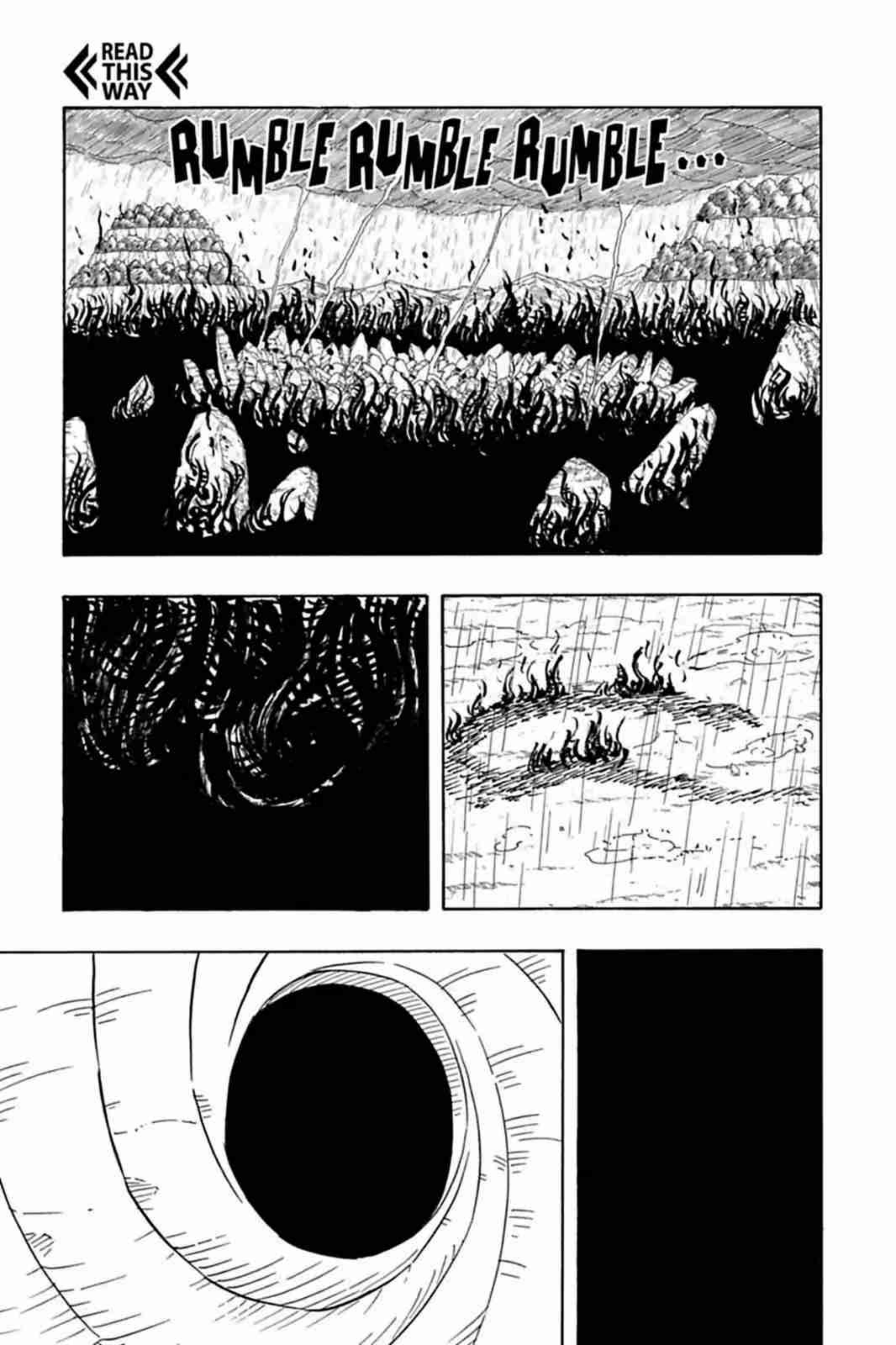



SHF

FZA
SH

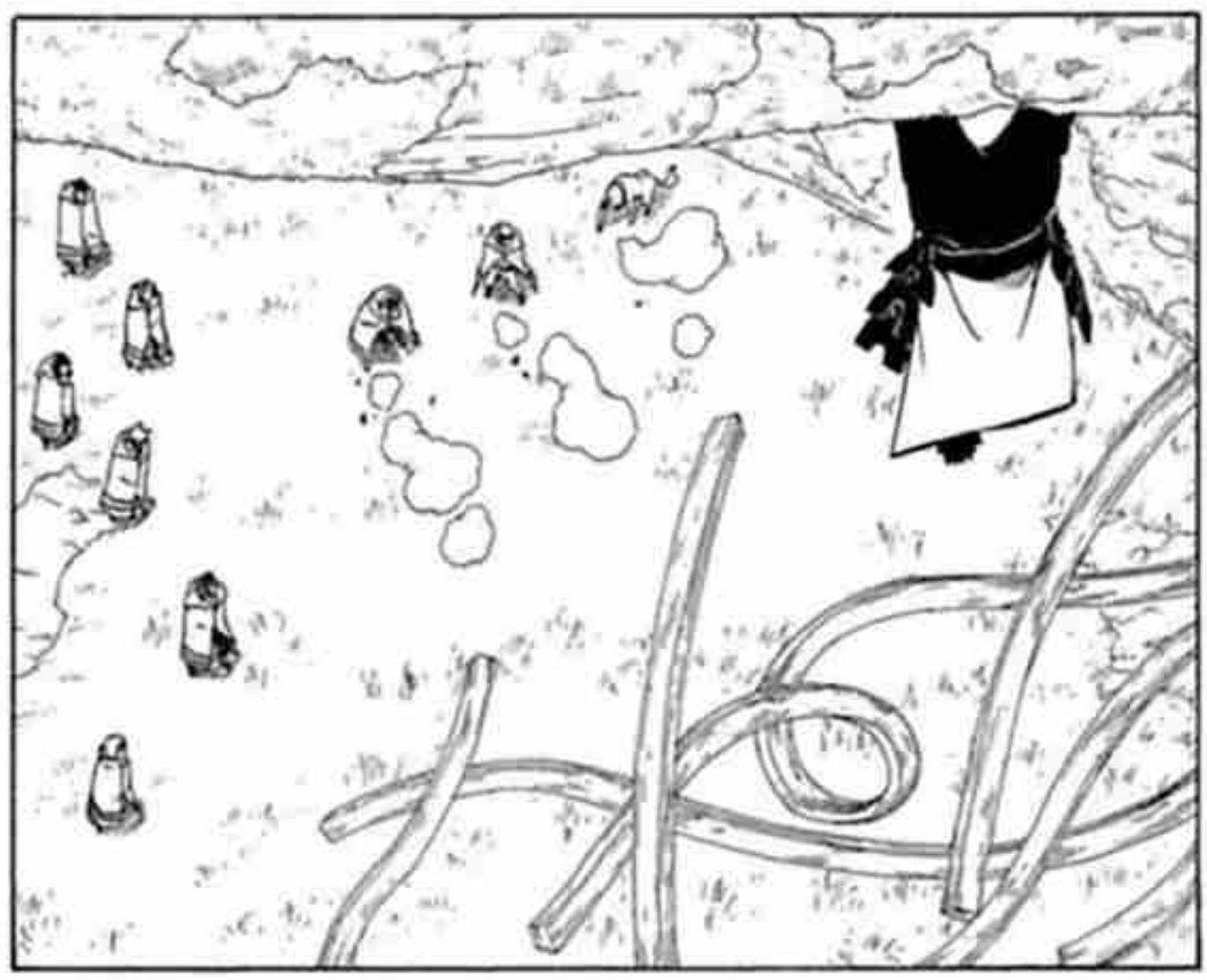

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

KRSH


READ THIS WAY
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE...

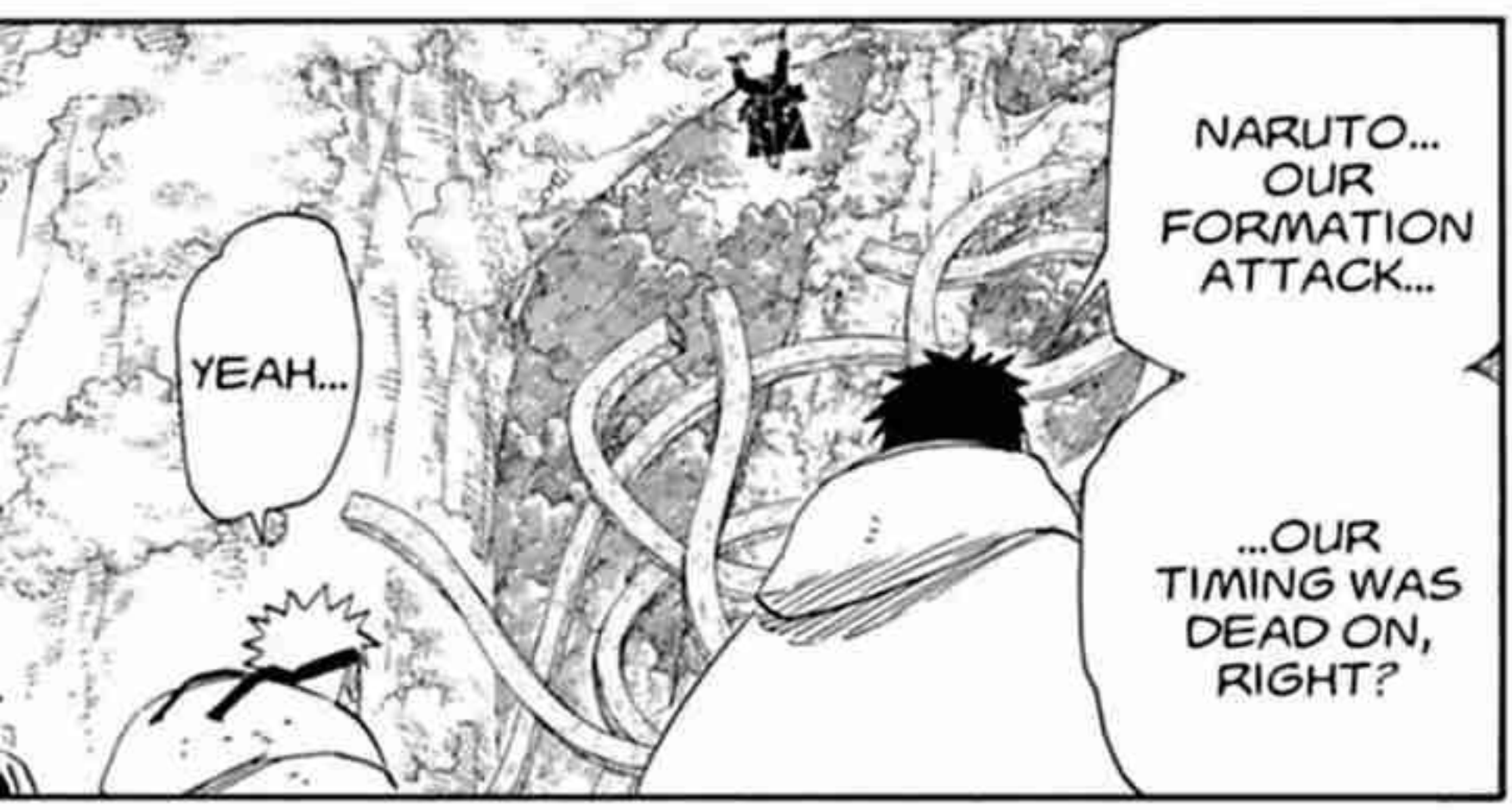
KRIK
KRIK!!

SCREECH



YEAH... I KNOW.
... MASTER KAKASHI ...?

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S BEEN ABLE TO DODGE ALL OF OUR ATTACKS ...
THIS FORMATION'S NO GOOD EITHER, HUH...


YEAH...
NARUTO... OUR FORMATION ATTACK...
...OUR TIMING WAS DEAD ON, RIGHT?

?

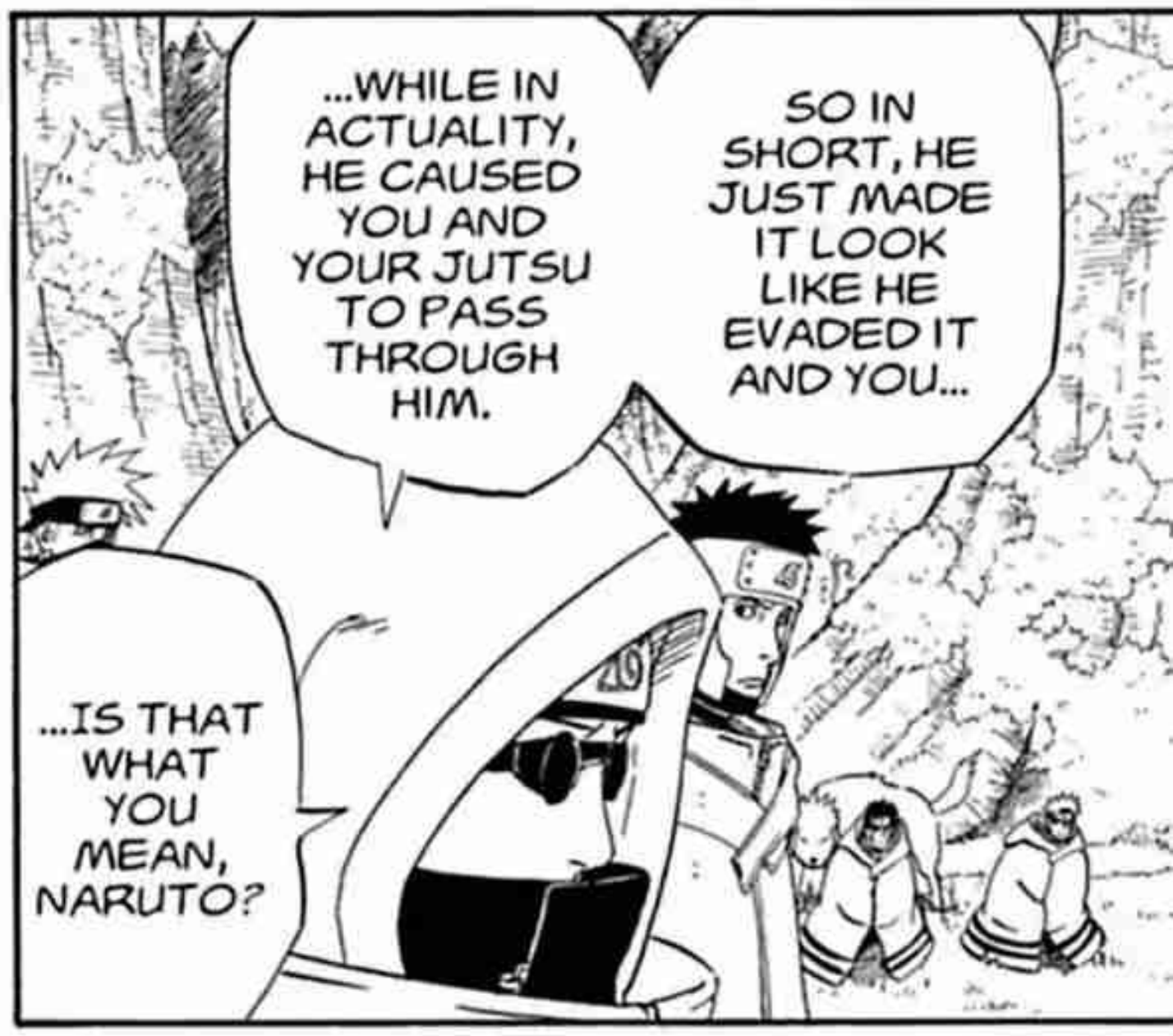
SO HOW WAS HE ABLE TO EVADE IT?!
IT SHOULD HAVE WORKED!!

I KNOW I GOT HIM THEN, TOO...
JUST LIKE WHEN I ATTACKED HIM WITH THE RASENGAN IN THE BEGINNING.
AH

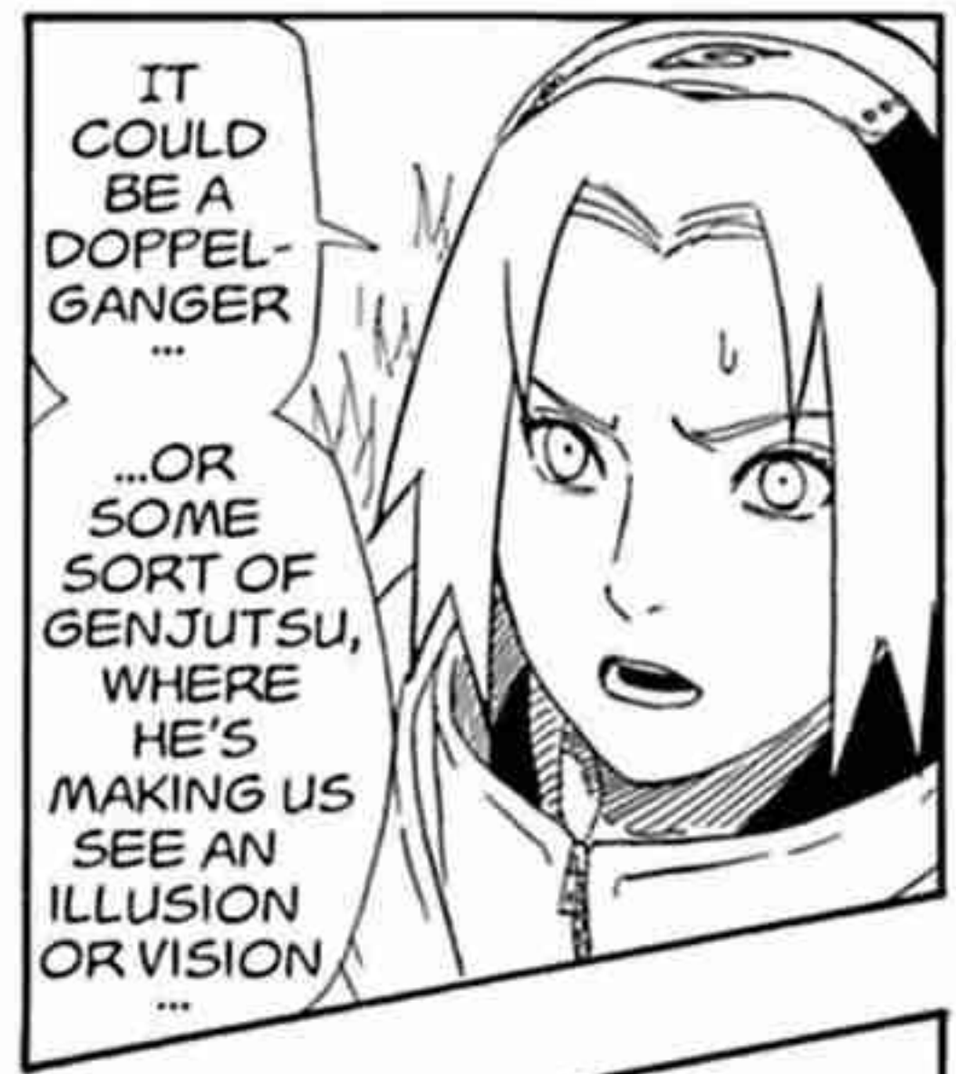
...I THINK HE DID GET HIT.
EH?

RAN
FWOO
BUT BOTH THE RASENGAN AND I SLIPPED RIGHT THROUGH HIM.

OH... HUH? ER...
C'MON, SHINO! QUIT SPEAKING IN RIDDLES!


...WHILE IN ACTUALITY, HE CAUSED YOU AND YOUR JUTSU TO PASS THROUGH HIM.
SO IN SHORT, HE JUST MADE IT LOOK LIKE HE EVADED IT AND YOU...
...IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN, NARUTO?

...BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE OF HIM, AND IT'S OVER THERE...
I-I THOUGHT SO TOO AT FIRST, SO I EXPANDED THE RANGE OF MY BYAKUGAN AND SURVEYED THE AREA FOR OTHER CHAKRA...


IT COULD BE A DOPPEL-GANGER ...
...OR SOME SORT OF GENJUTSU, WHERE HE'S MAKING US SEE AN ILLUSION OR VISION ...

WHAT THINK YOU, MASTER KAKASHI?
PASS THROUGH ... NO WONDER ...

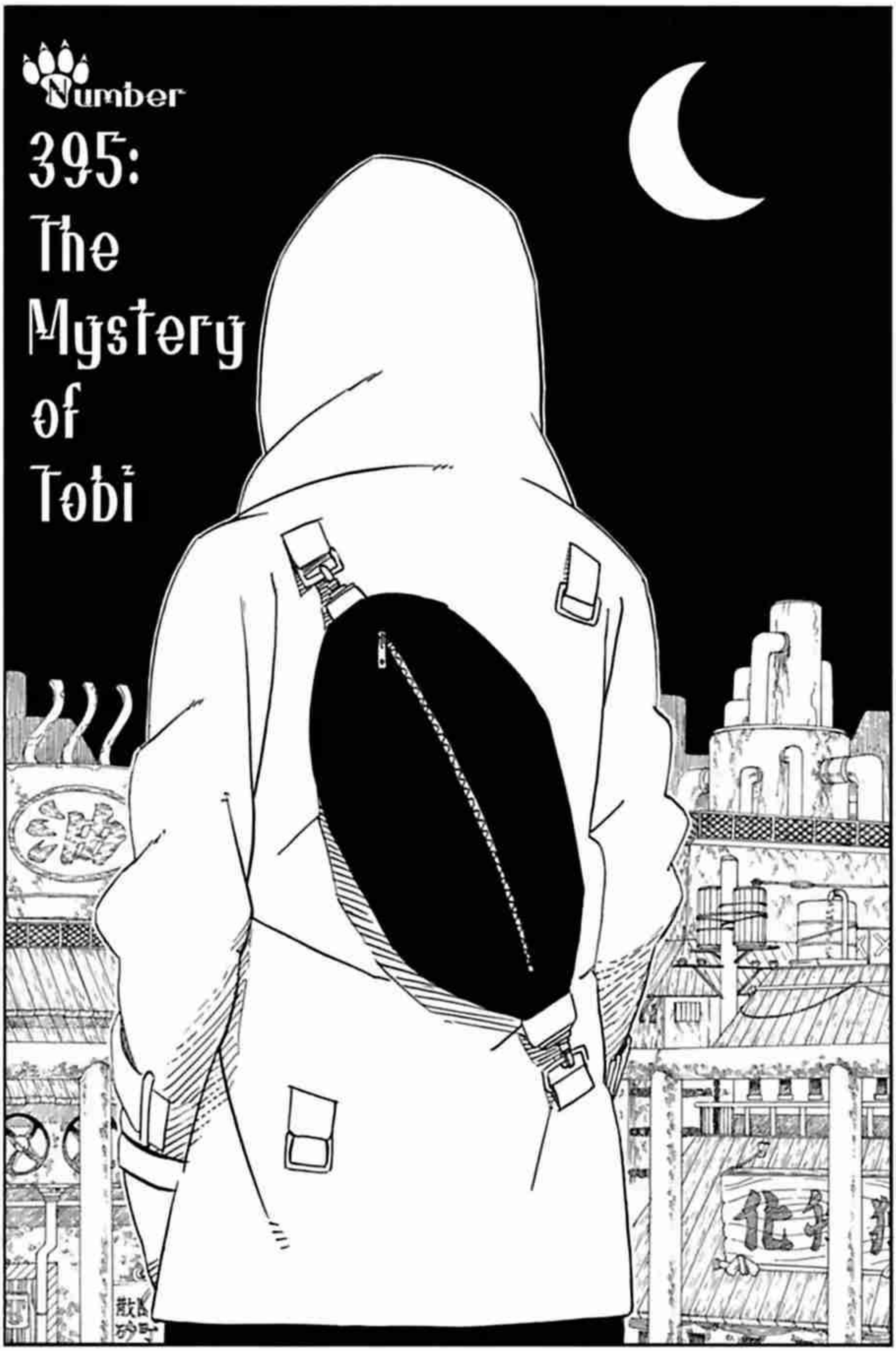
THERE!
TMD

SHINO...?

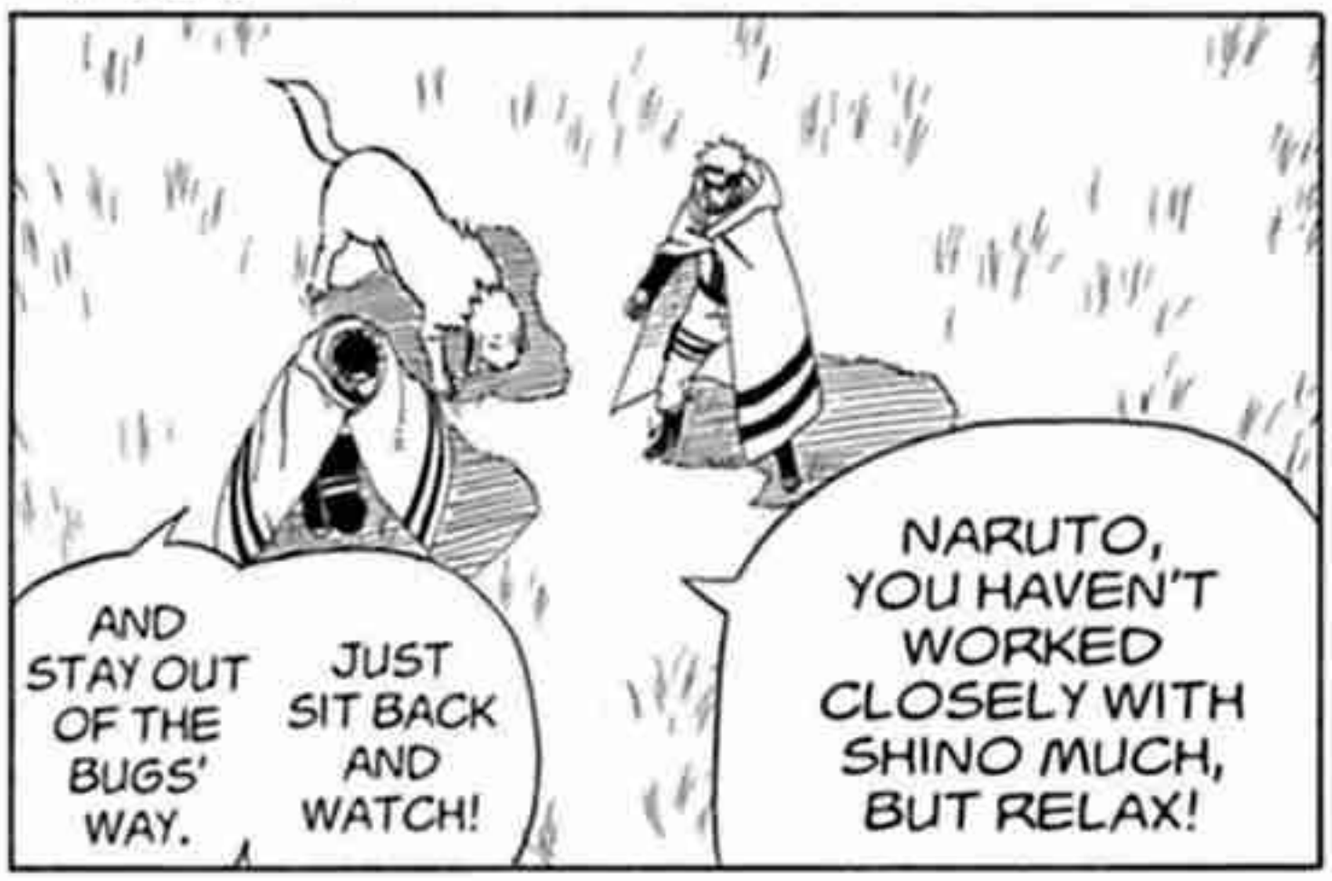
WHICH MAKES IT A REAL BOTHER, BUT...
NO MISTAKE, IT'S SOME SPECIAL JUTSU THAT'S UNIQUE TO HIM.

READ THIS WAY

NARUTO


Number
395:
The
Mystery
of
Tobi

BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
WAH! GROSS!!
GO.
HEY, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? HE DODGED THAT EASY!
FTAP
SPROING


AND STAY OUT OF THE BUGS' WAY.
JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH!
NARUTO, YOU HAVEN'T WORKED CLOSELY WITH SHINO MUCH, BUT RELAX!

...BUT RATHER ON WIDE-RANGE, SWEEP-TYPE ASSAULTS.
THE ABURAME CLAN DOES NOT SPECIALIZE IN PINPOINT, NARROWLY FOCUSED ATTACKS...

SKTTK
!
SKTTK

DISPERSE.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID ALL OF THE BEETLES.
NOW HE CAN'T GET AWAY.

...OR LETTING OUR JUTSU PASS THROUGH.
NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL WHETHER HE'S EVADING...

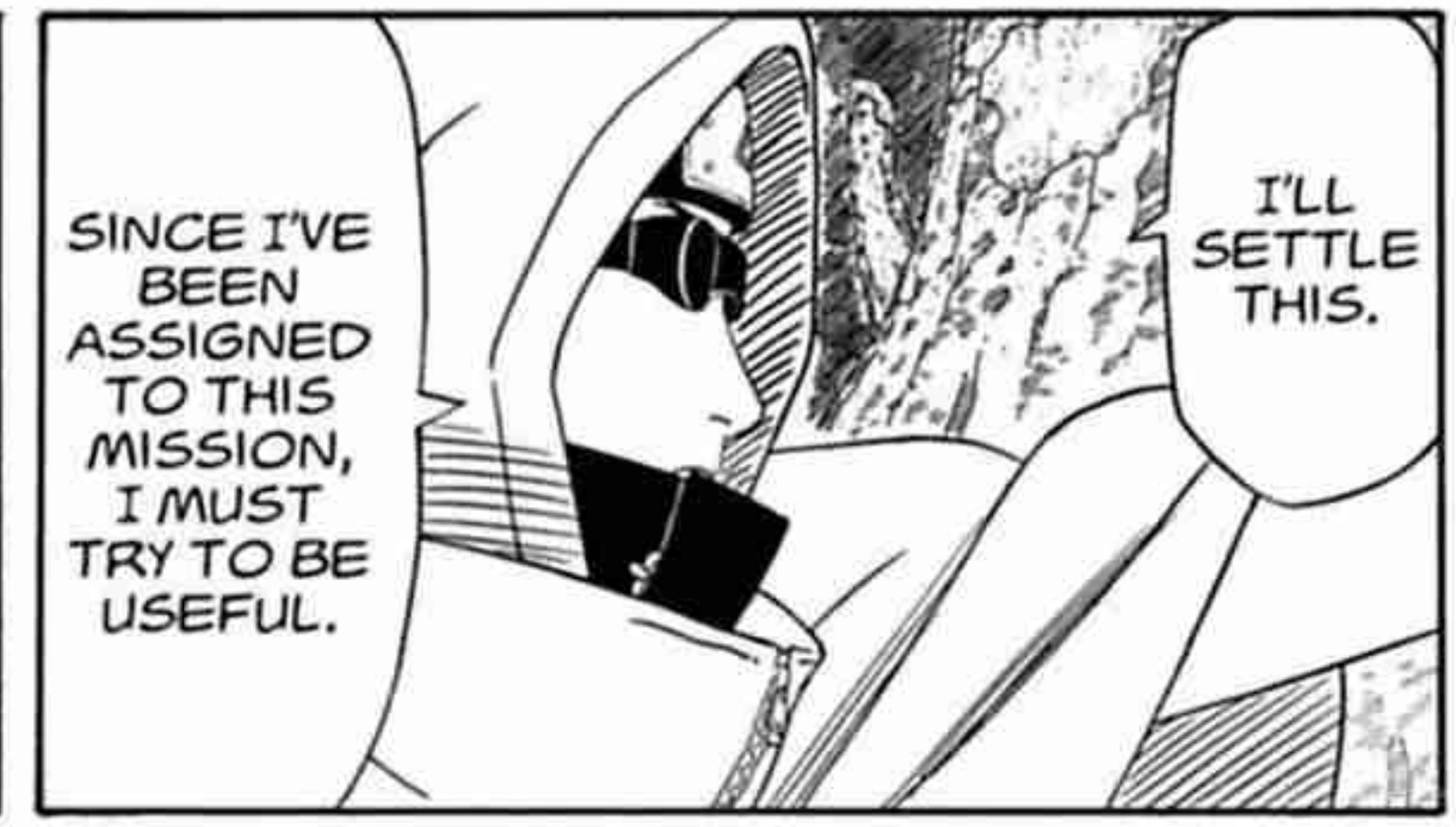
WOW!

SECRET ART! BEETLE SPHERE!!
DO IT.

NICE!
AWE-SOME, SHINO!!

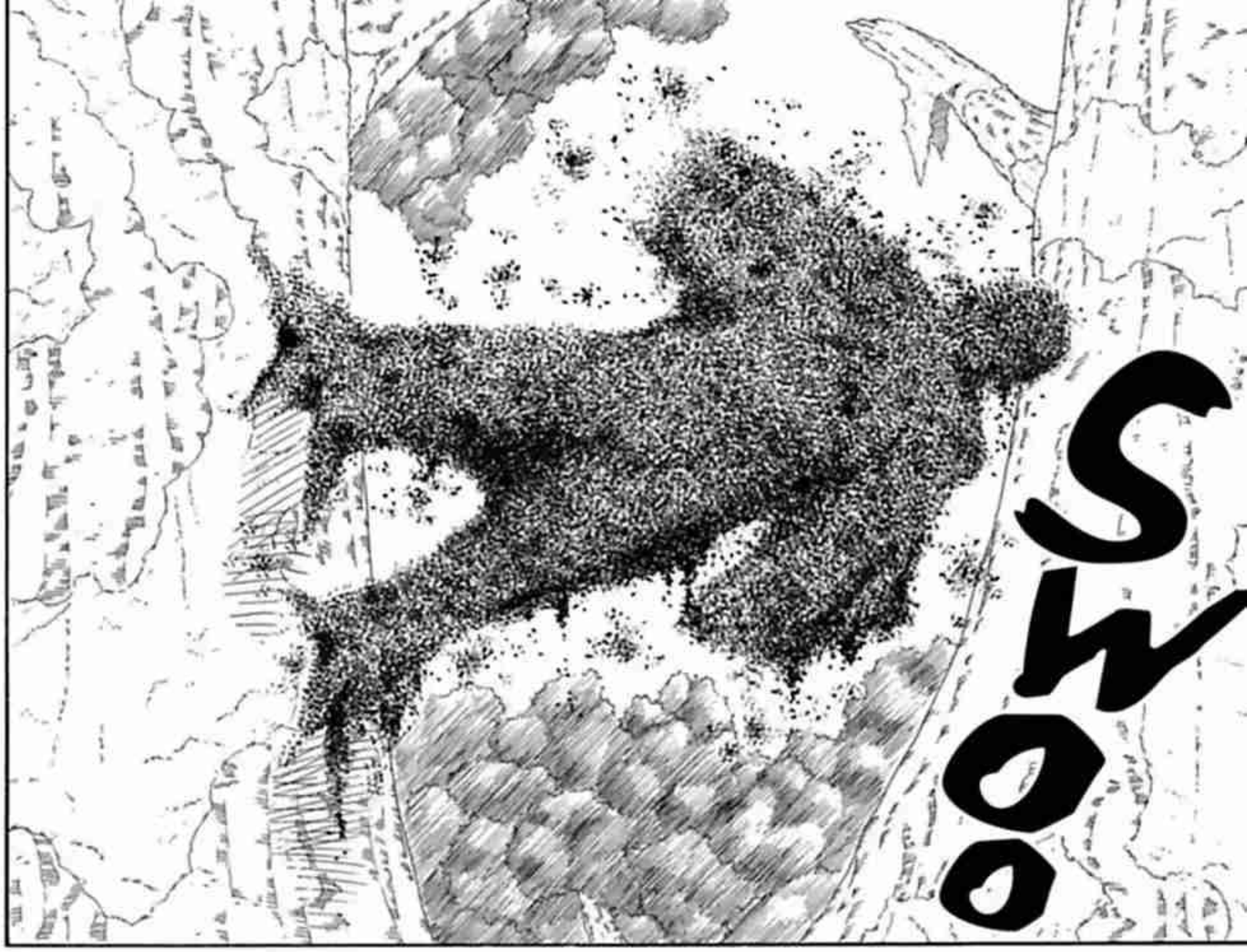
SWOOOO...
!

YEESH, YOU'RE STILL BEARING THAT GRUDGE, AREN'T YOU!


SINCE I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THIS MISSION, I MUST TRY TO BE USEFUL.
I'LL SETTLE THIS.

IT'S IMPRESSIVE HOW SHINO CAN MANIPULATE SO MANY BEETLES SO EASILY...
THE BEETLES ARE CLOSING IN AS WE WATCH ...

UGH...


SHOO

HE'S DEFINITELY INSIDE THE SWARM OF SHINO'S BEETLES.
Y-YES, SIR! CONFIRMING THE TARGET'S CHAKRA!

WELL, HINATA?

ROGER!
FWp
FWp
YAMATO!

READY TO GO WHENEVER YOU ARE!
FWOOOO
FWOOO

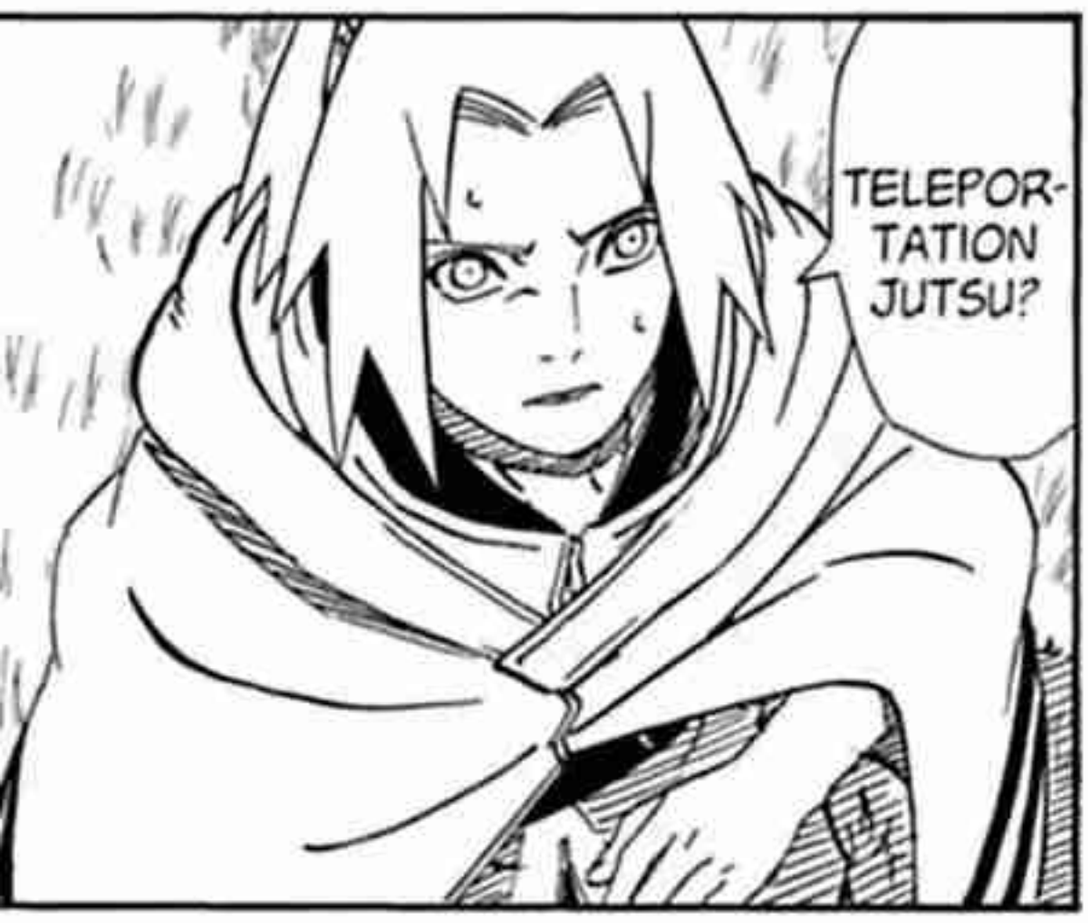
THE PARASITIC BEETLES ARE FEEDING ON HIS CHAKRA.
I DEFINITELY SENSE HIM IN THERE ...

WELL, SHINO?

?!

ALL RIGHT! JUST SUCK HIM DRY, THEN!

KERPLOP


TELEPORTATION JUTSU?

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...!
THE BEETLES SUDDENLY LOST TRACK OF HIM AND HIS CHAKRA!

NO... THERE'S NO WAY...
SO HE USED SOME OTHER FORM OF TELEPORTATION NINJUTSU...?

IF IT WERE, THE BEETLES WOULD HAVE REACTED TO THE REAPPEARANCE OF HIS CHAKRA AND HEADED TOWARDS HIS NEW POSITION.
NO... IT'S NOT THE ART OF TELEPORTATION.
THEY WOULDN'T LOSE HIM ENTIRELY.

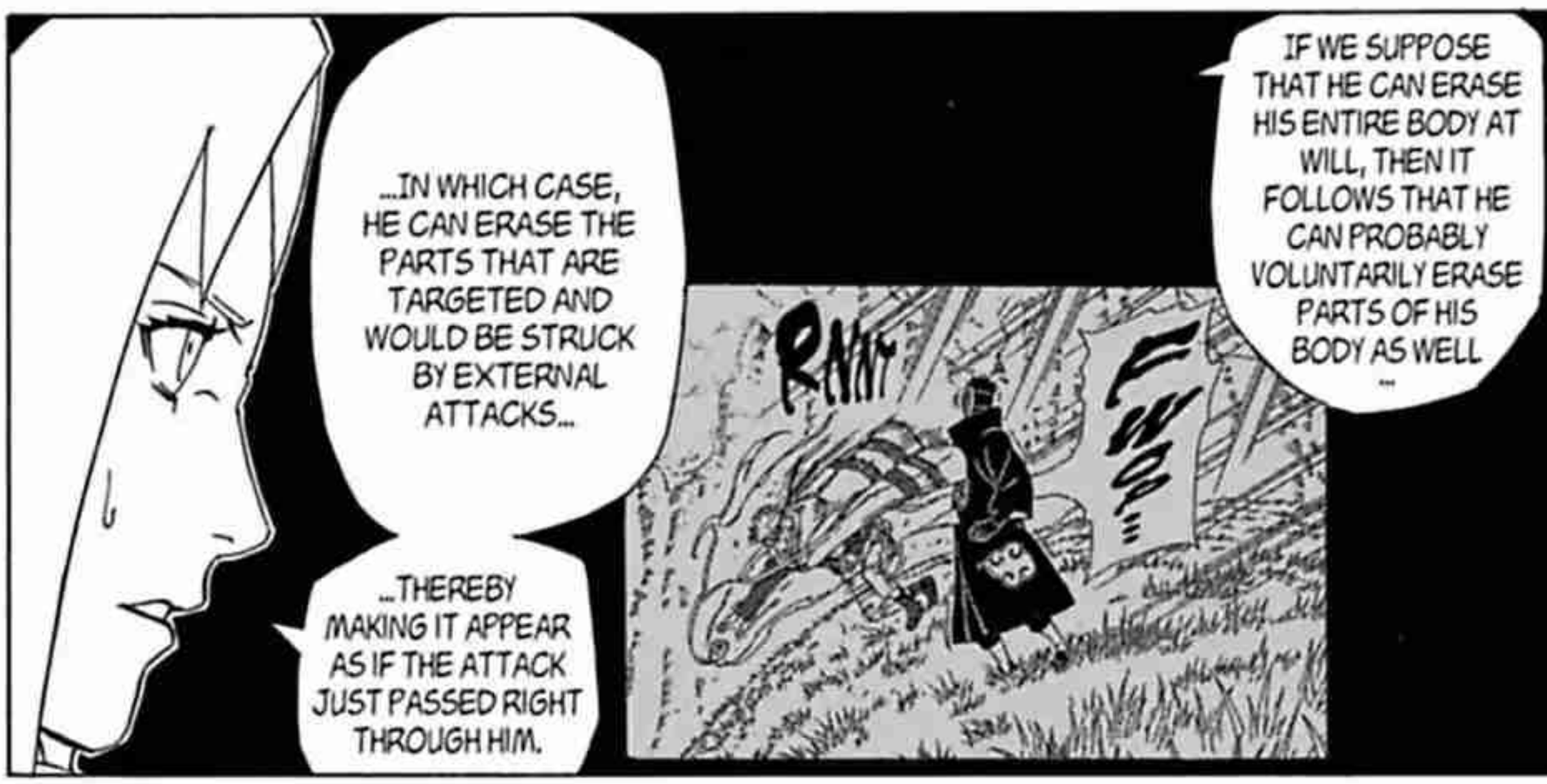
...JUST VAN-ISHED ...

...BUT... HE SUD-DENLY...

NO WAY...
BUT...!

...HE CAN ERASE HIS ENTIRE PRES-ENCE?
HE ERASED HIS WHOLE BODY...

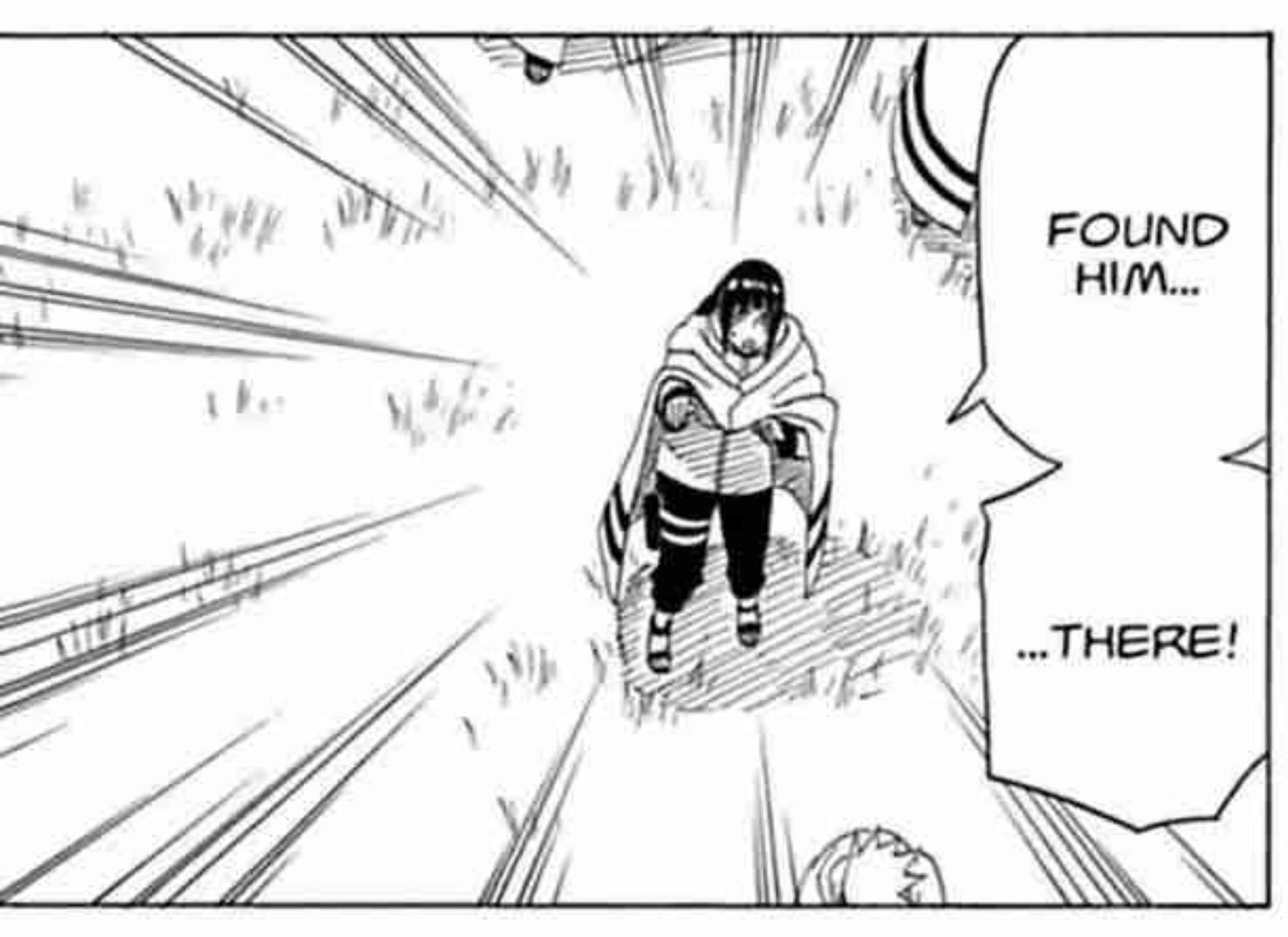
THAT'S NINJUTSU THAT SUR-PASSES THE FOURTH HOKAGE'S ABILITIES.
HE TRAVELED THROUGH SPACE WITHOUT WEAVING SIGNS, SUM-MONING OR USING MARKS?


...IN WHICH CASE, HE CAN ERASE THE PARTS THAT ARE TARGETED AND WOULD BE STRUCK BY EXTERNAL ATTACKS...
...THEREBY MAKING IT APPEAR AS IF THE ATTACK JUST PASSED RIGHT THROUGH HIM.
IF WE SUPPOSE THAT HE CAN ERASE HIS ENTIRE BODY AT WILL, THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT HE CAN PROBABLY VOLUNTARILY ERASE PARTS OF HIS BODY AS WELL ...
RAAN
FWOOP

WOOF WOOF!

WEEN
BYAKU-GAN!!

SO HE DIDN'T EVADE THEM, THE ATTACKS JUST DIDN'T HIT...


FOUND HIM...
...THERE!

BLINK
!

!!

GAH!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY NOSE!

SORRY, SORRY.
HI!

SWISH
KRAK

TUNNELING FANG!!
!

VW
EEN
KIBA! DON'T ACT ON YOUR OWN!!

BOOM
UGH!

KIBA... I BELIEVE THIS TIME, HE JUST DODGED IT...
...
FIZZLE...
TROT
AWOO...

PASSED RIGHT THROUGH AGAIN, HUH... D'OH!

AWOO...

!

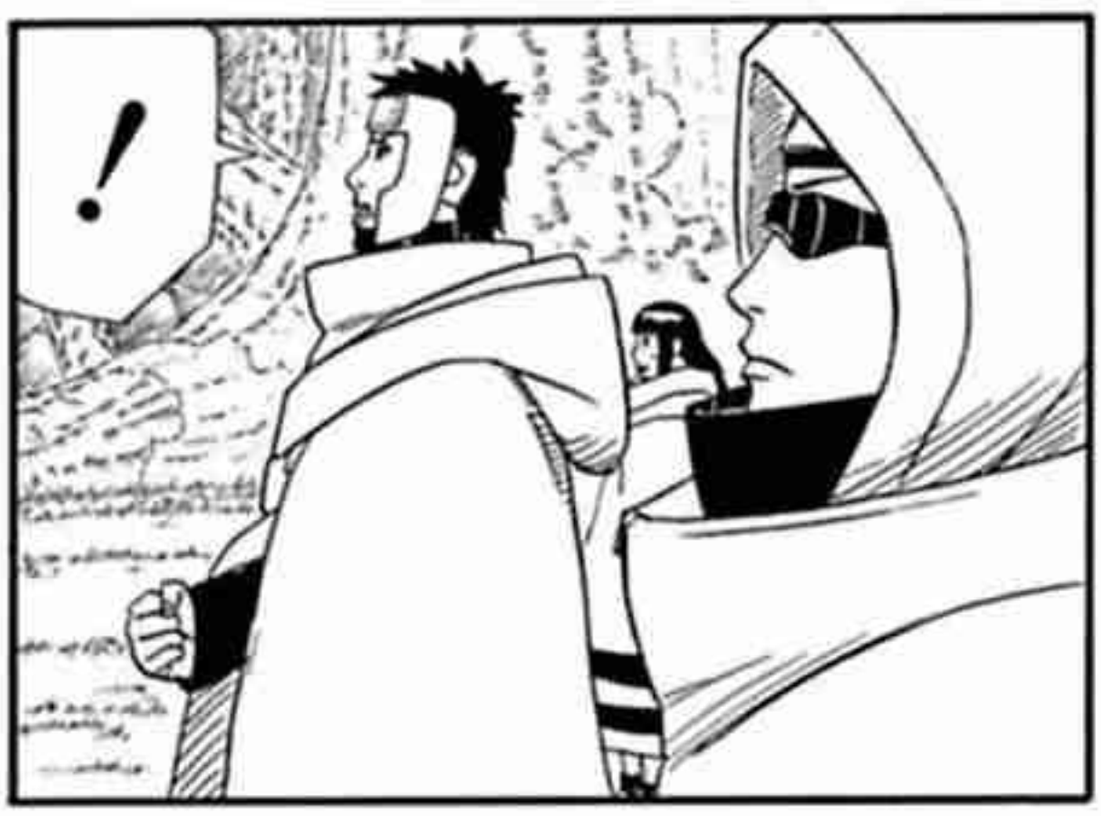
ZWOOO...

HIM. HE WAS ON THAT AKATSUKI ROSTER KABUTO LEFT US...

TKAT.

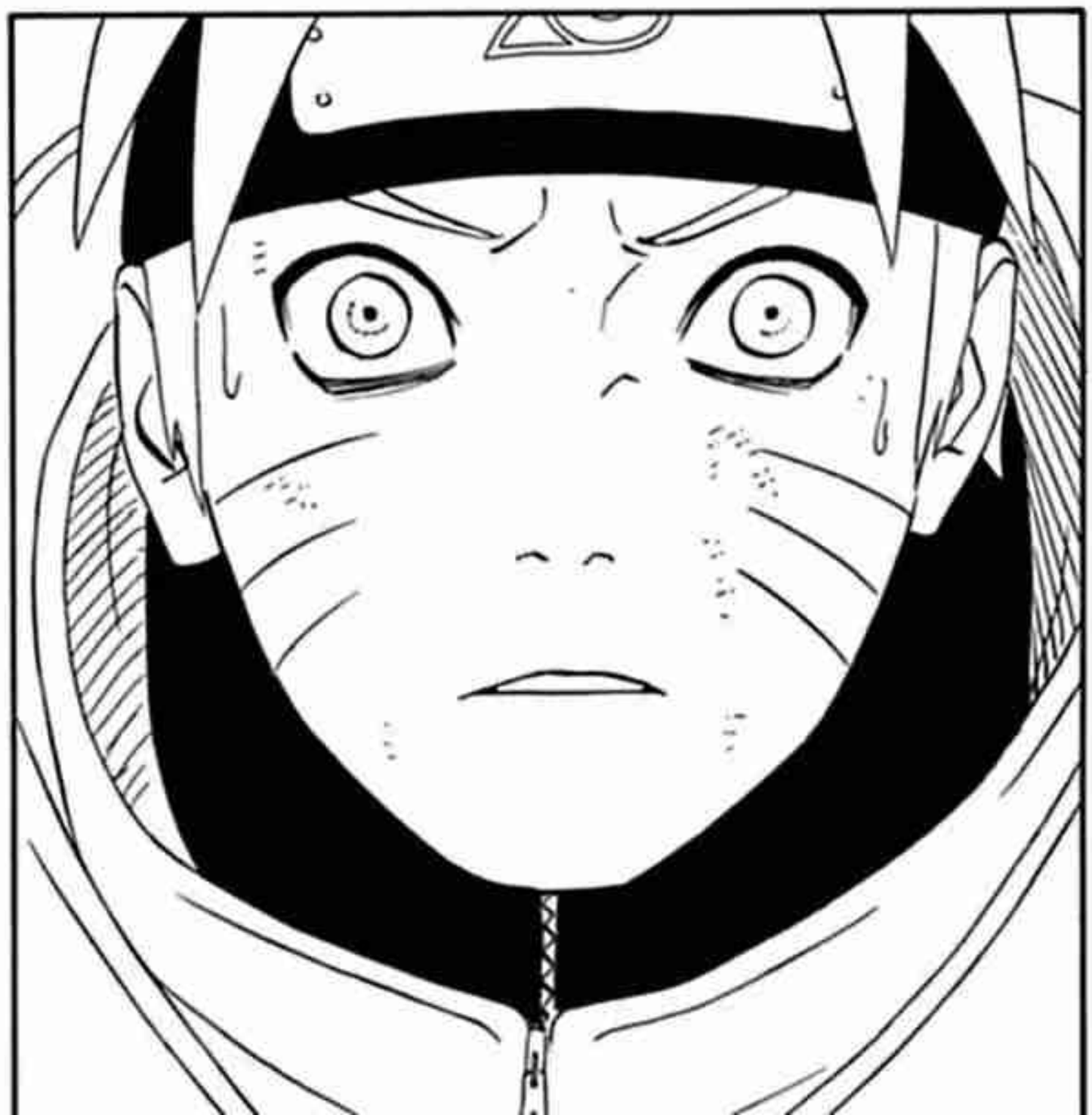
UCHIHA ITACHI HAS DIED.
SASUKE WON!

ANOTHER INTER-FERENCE!

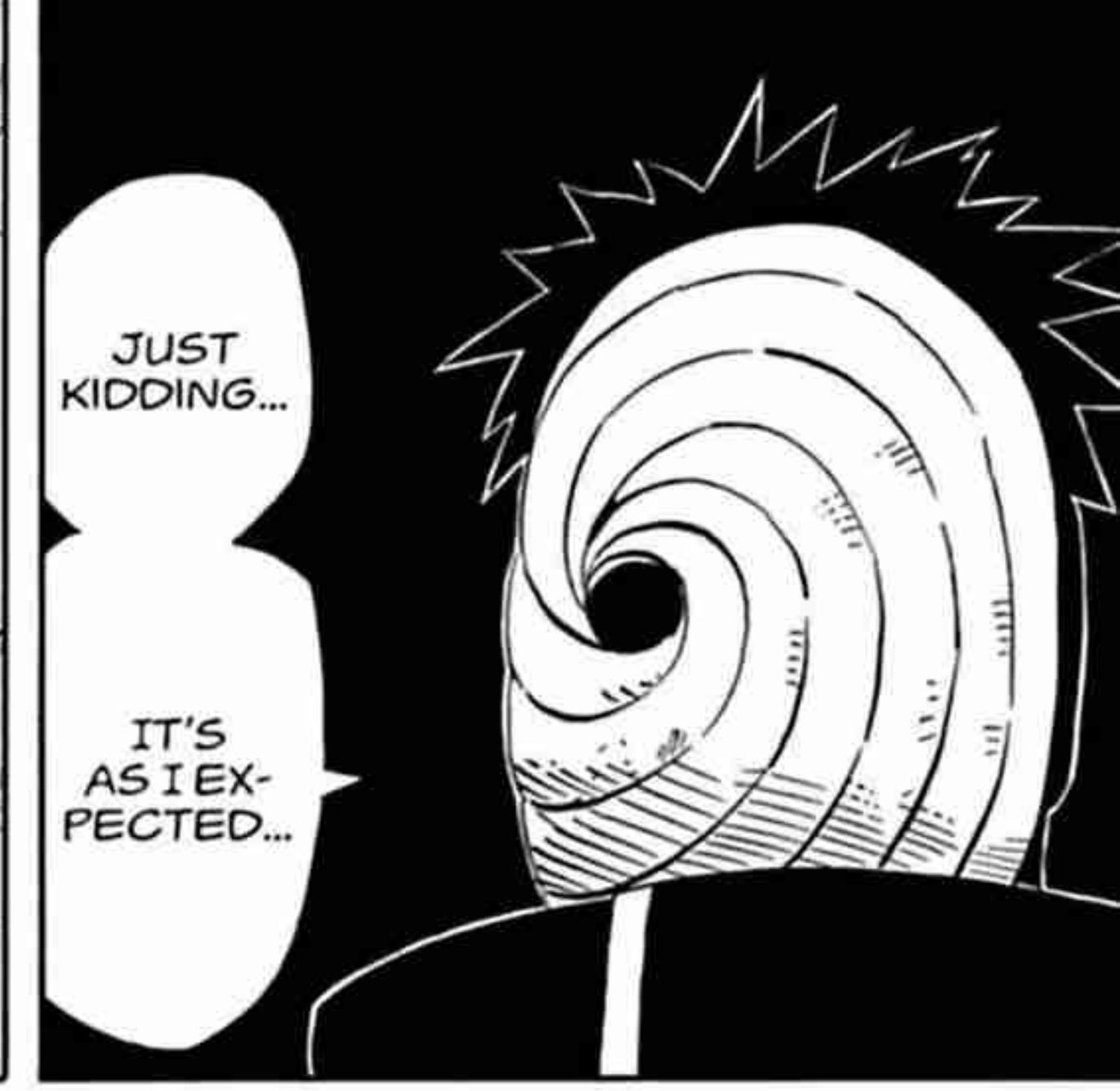

!

!

WHOA! NO WAY!

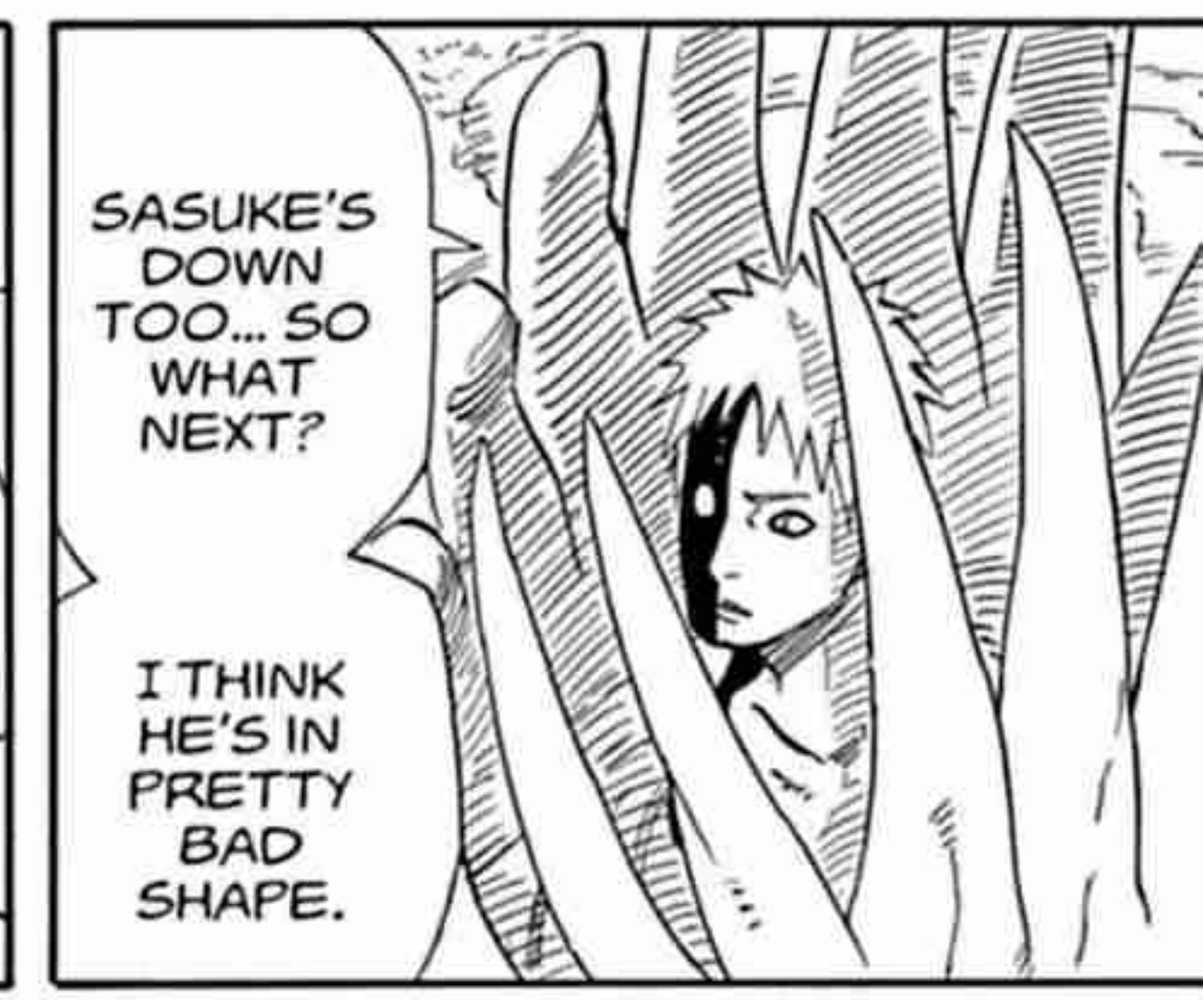


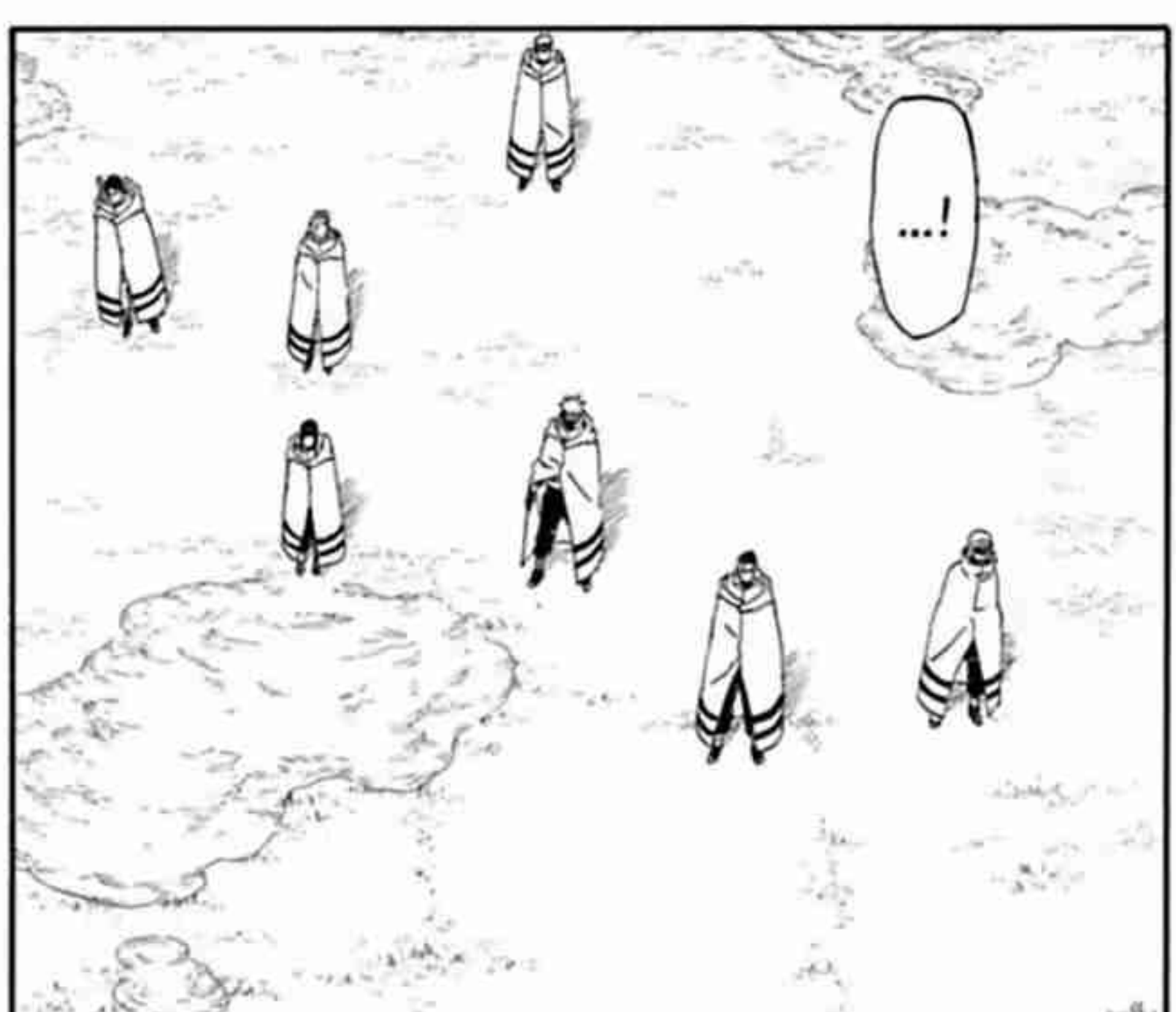
S-SASUKE... KILLED ITACHI...?


JUST KIDDING...
IT'S AS I EX-PECTED...

...!

!!


SASUKE'S DOWN TOO... SO WHAT NEXT?
I THINK HE'S IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.


...!

!!

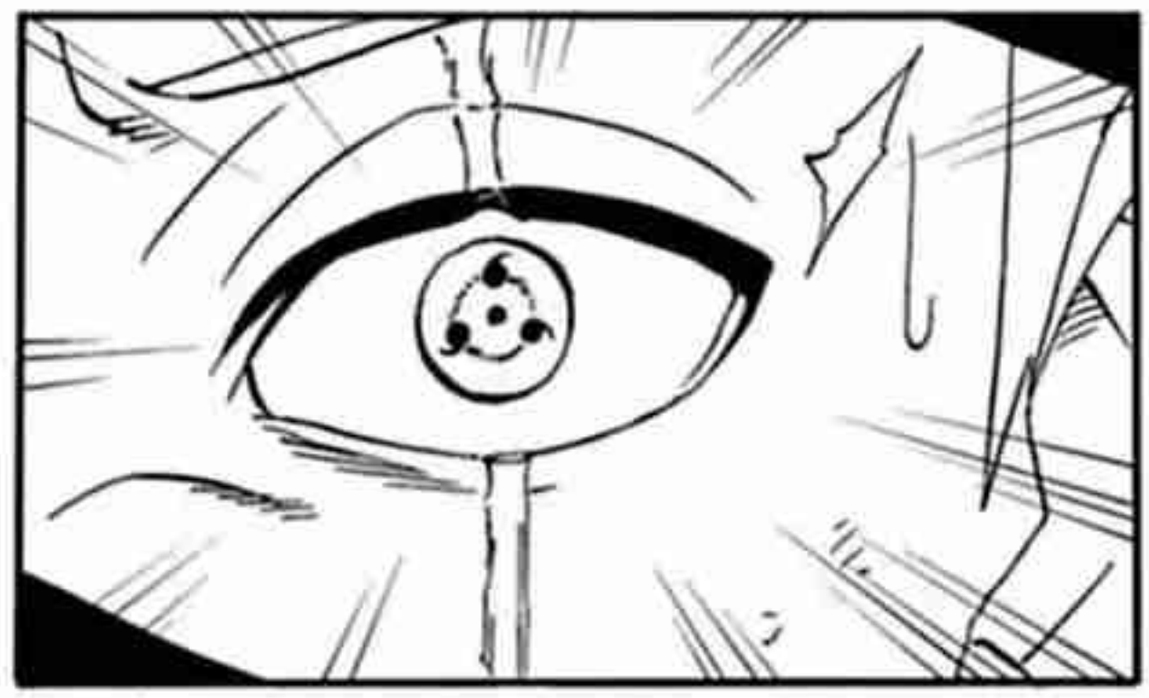
IGNORE HIM...

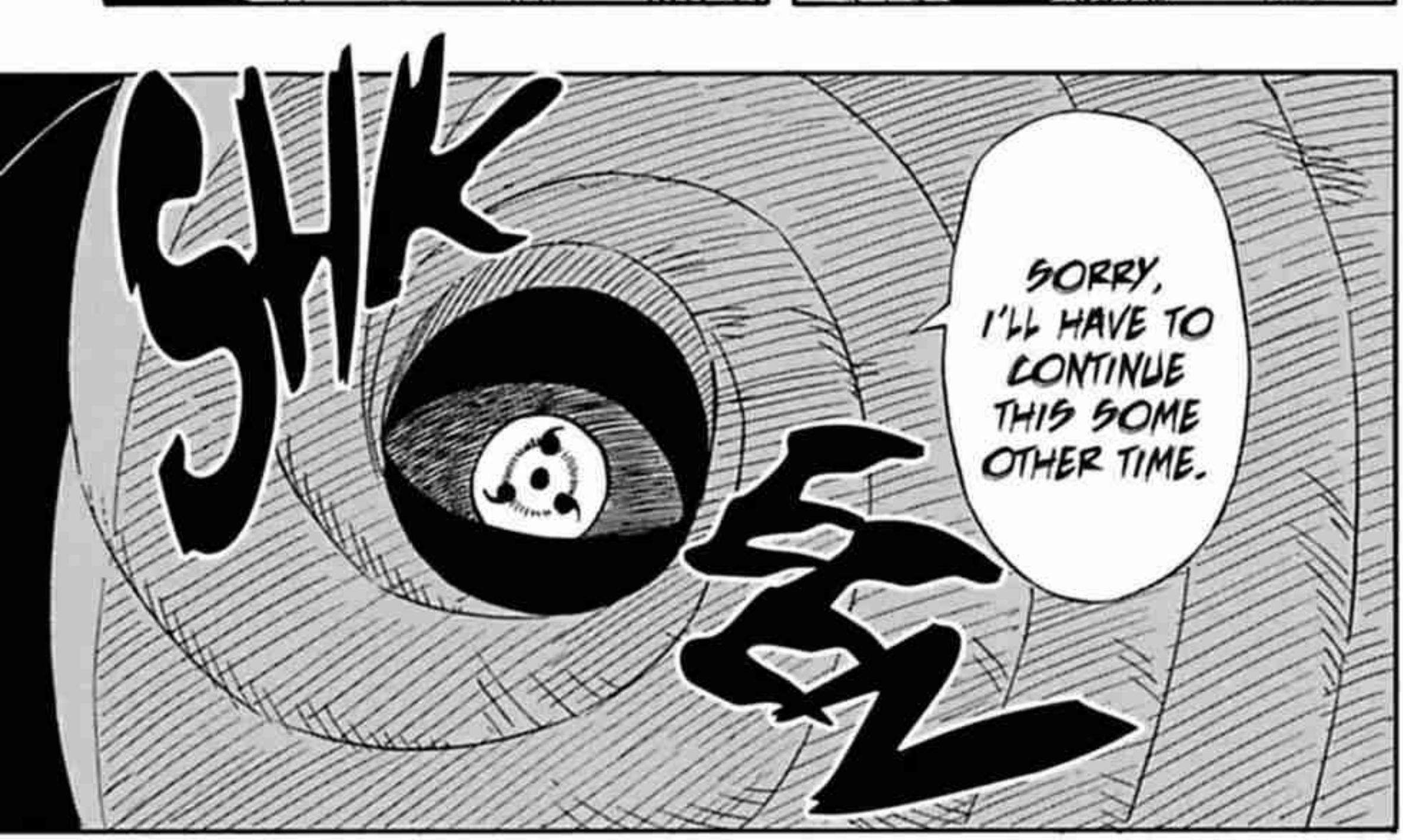
ALOE?!

DUNF

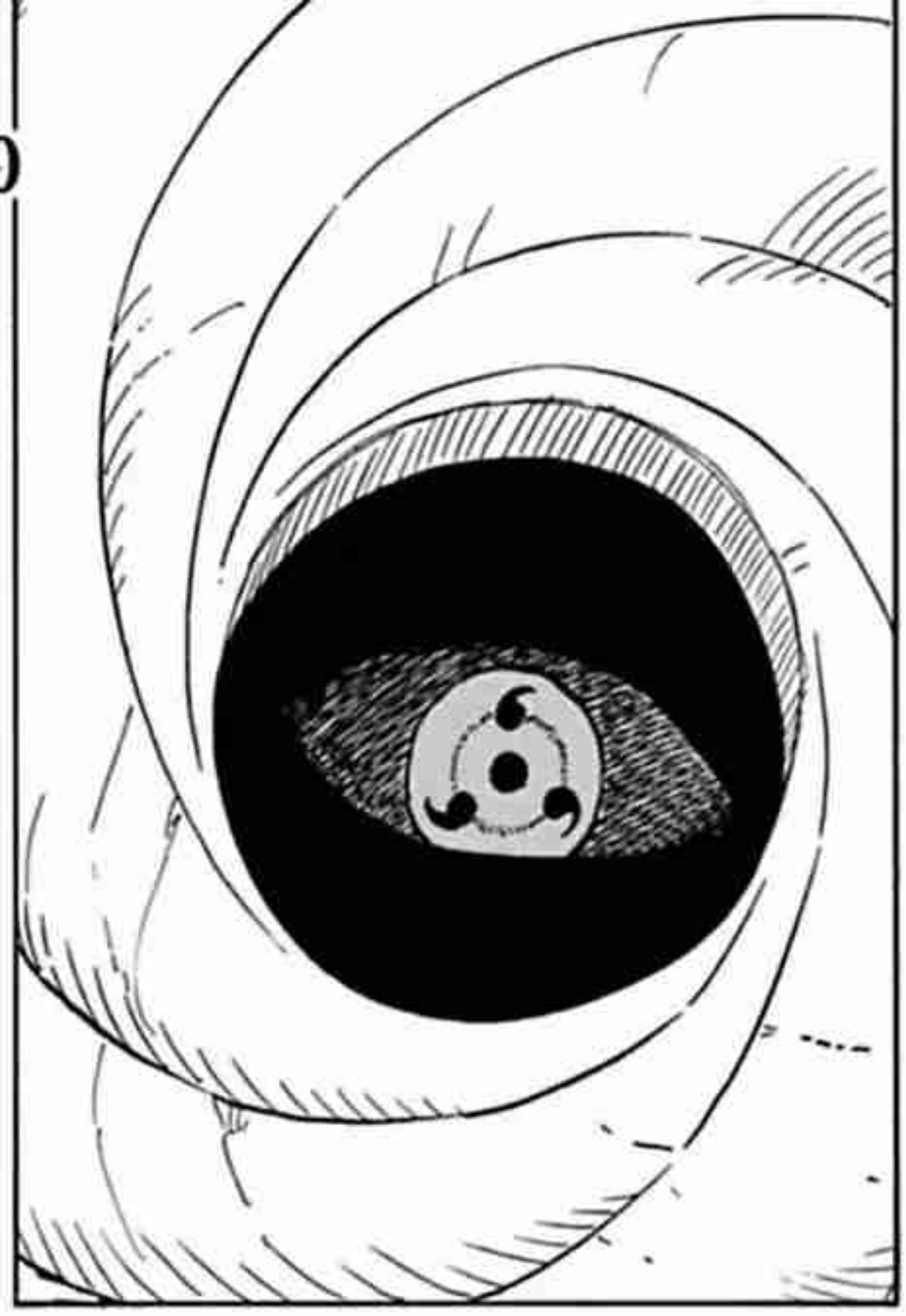
WHERE IS SASUKE ?!

HEY!! YOU THERE, SPIKY ALOE GUY!!





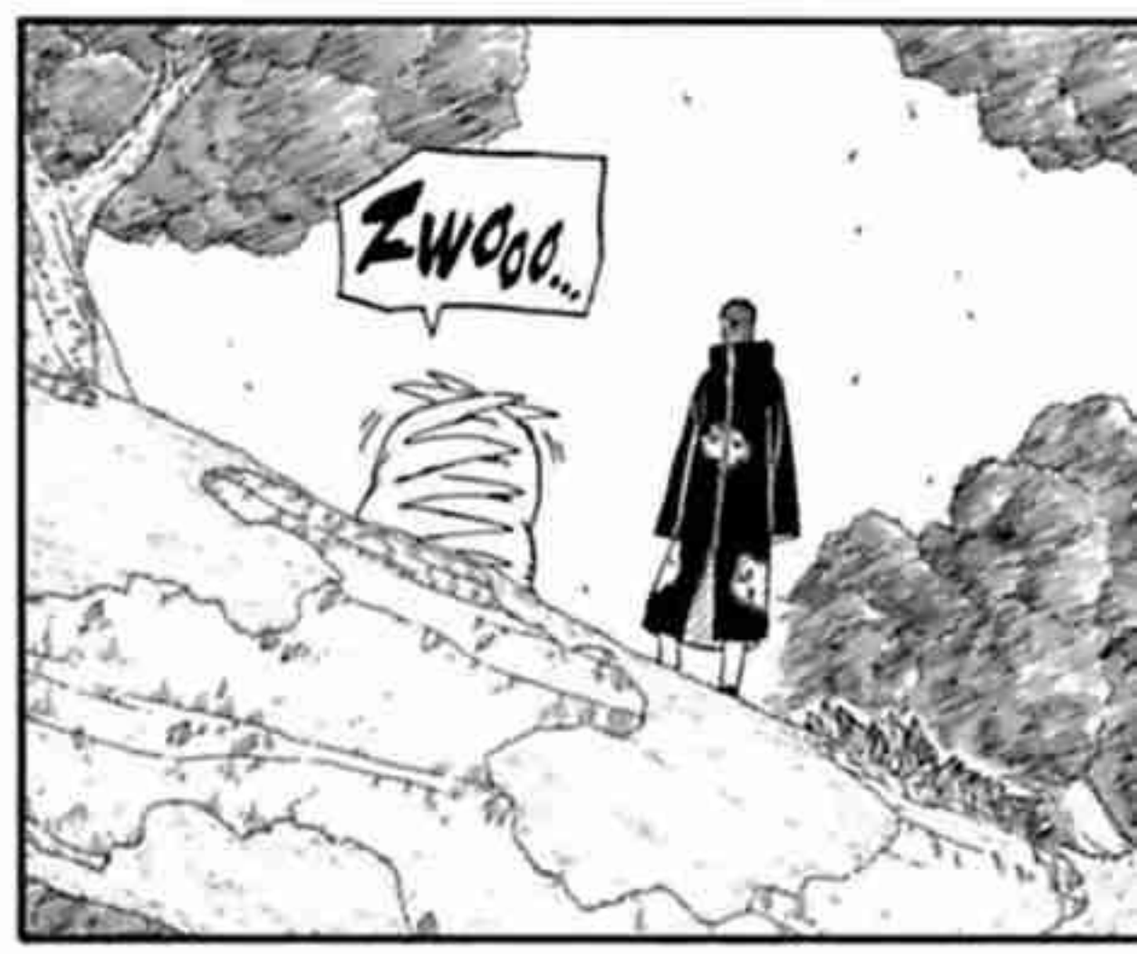
Number 396: Self-Intro



WHO... IN THE WORLD IS HE?!

?

SWSH
LATER.

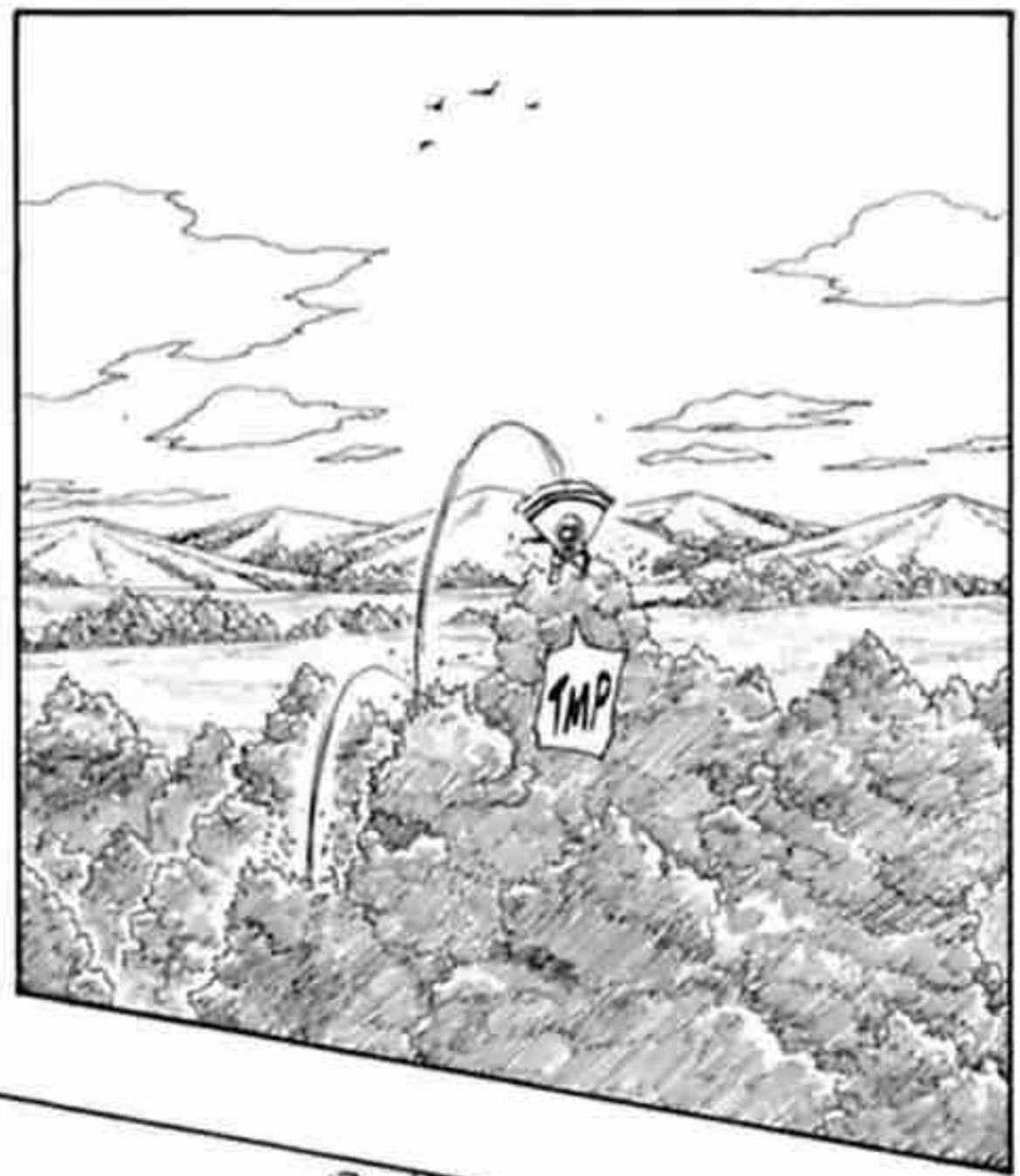

ZWOOO...

ZWW...
ZWW

ZWOOO
FLIP

WE'VE GOT TO FIND SASUKE BEFORE THEY DO!
!
FTAP

!
SHOOM


TMP

Y-YES, SIR!

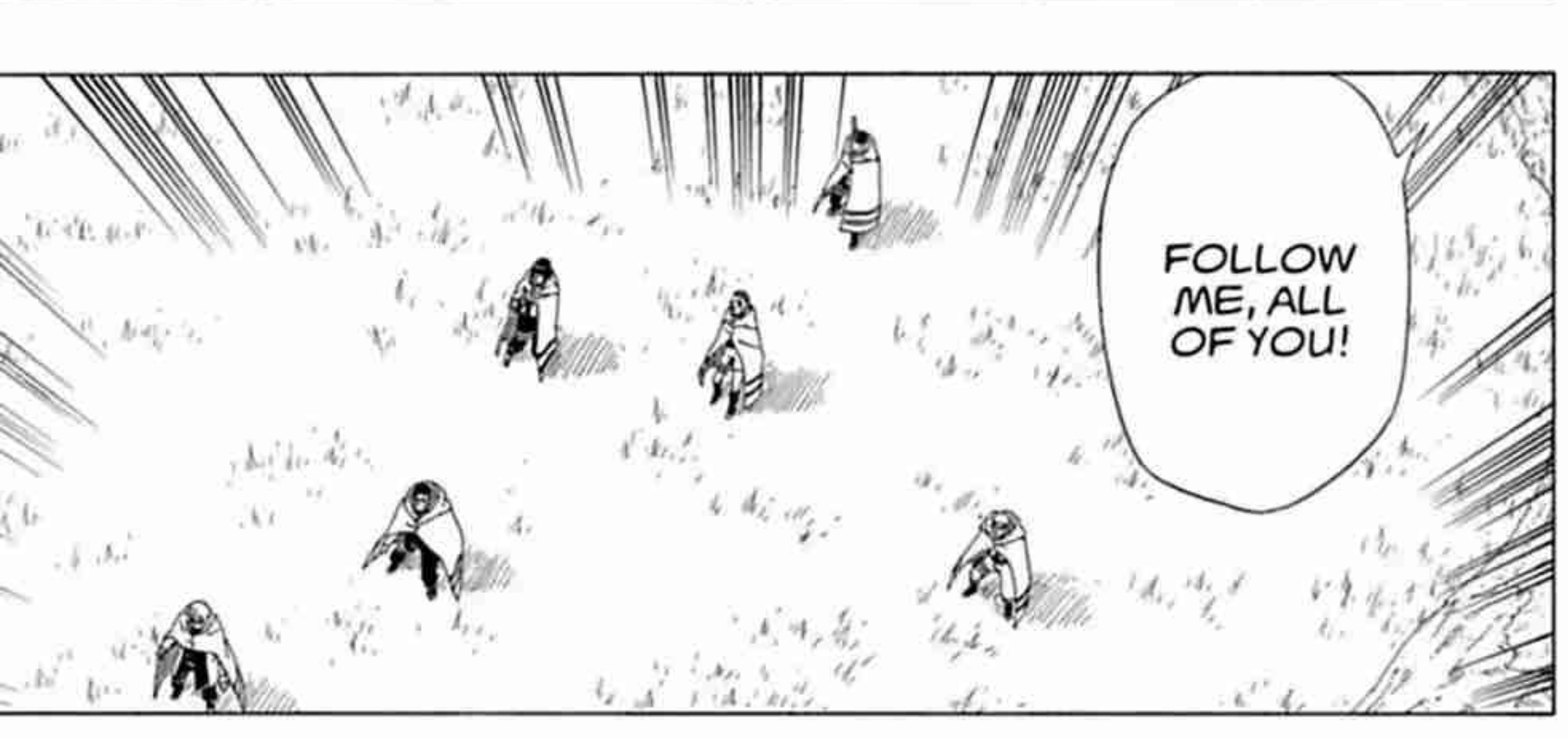
HINATA! PLEASE TAKE A LOOK TOWARD 4 O'CLOCK!

FABOOSH

SHK
BYAKU-GAN!!

THAT'S IT!
THE AMA-TERASU ?!

AND... FOR SOME REASON... THE FOREST IS ON FIRE... WITH BLACK FLAMES.
ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS AHEAD, I SEE A POWERFUL CHAKRA SPREAD OUT ACROSS A WIDE SWATH...


FOLLOW ME, ALL OF YOU!

FULL SPEED AHEAD!!

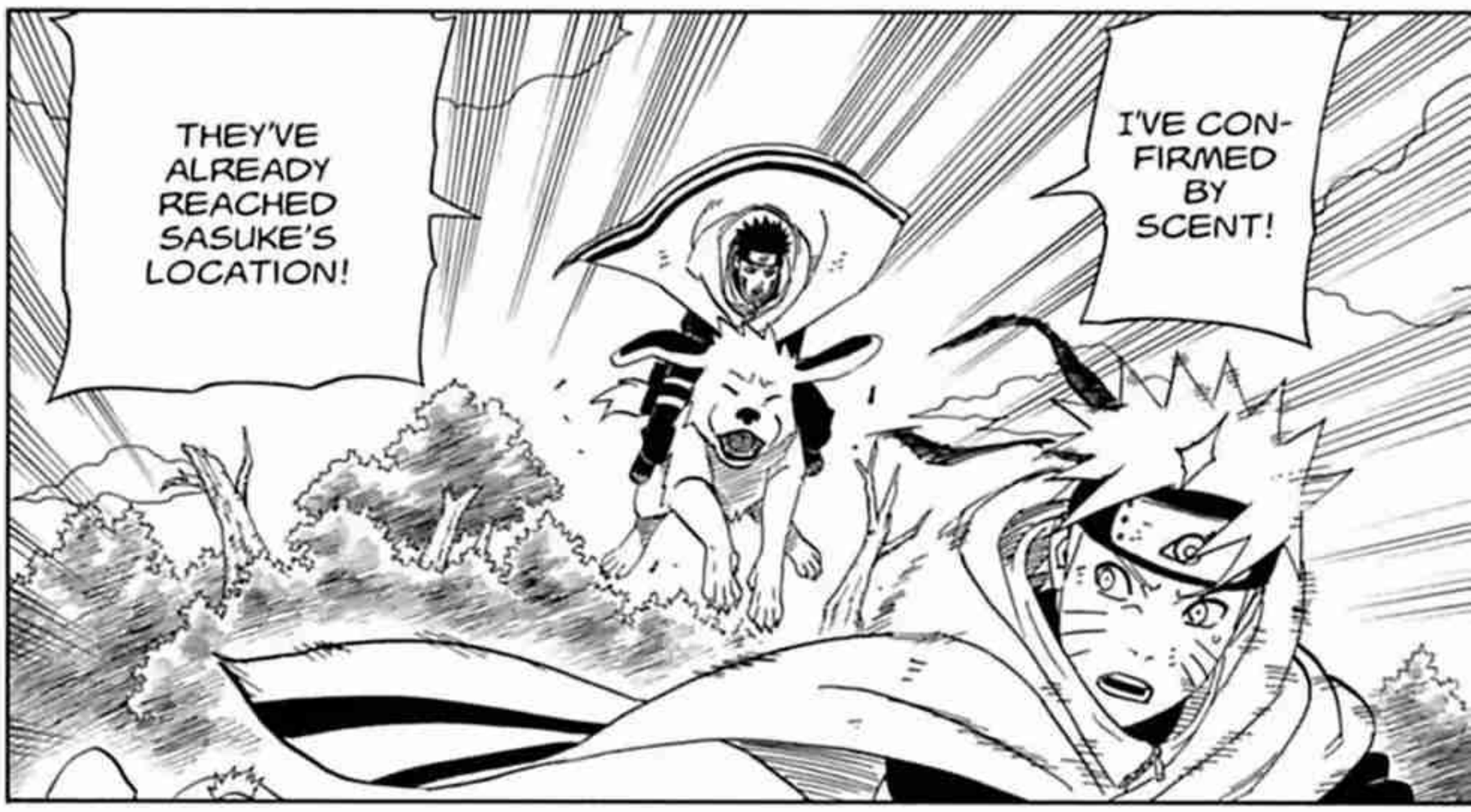
...THIS TIME...!

Number 396: Self-Intro

READ THIS WAY
YOU'RE LATE.
YOU BETTER HAVE RECORDED THE BATTLE.
RELAX. I CAPTURED THE WHOLE THING.
ZWOO...
I CAN'T SHIFT AS FAST AS YOU.
I'M NOT YOU.
ZWOO...
WE SHOULD GO NOW.
WE'RE TAKING ITACHI'S CORPSE, TOO.
LATER ON, I'D LIKE TO CLOSELY REVIEW IT.

!
SNIFF

SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM


THEY'VE ALREADY REACHED SASUKE'S LOCATION!
I'VE CONFIRMED BY SCENT!

!

DARN IT!!

YES, SIR!

YAMATO!

SHOOM...

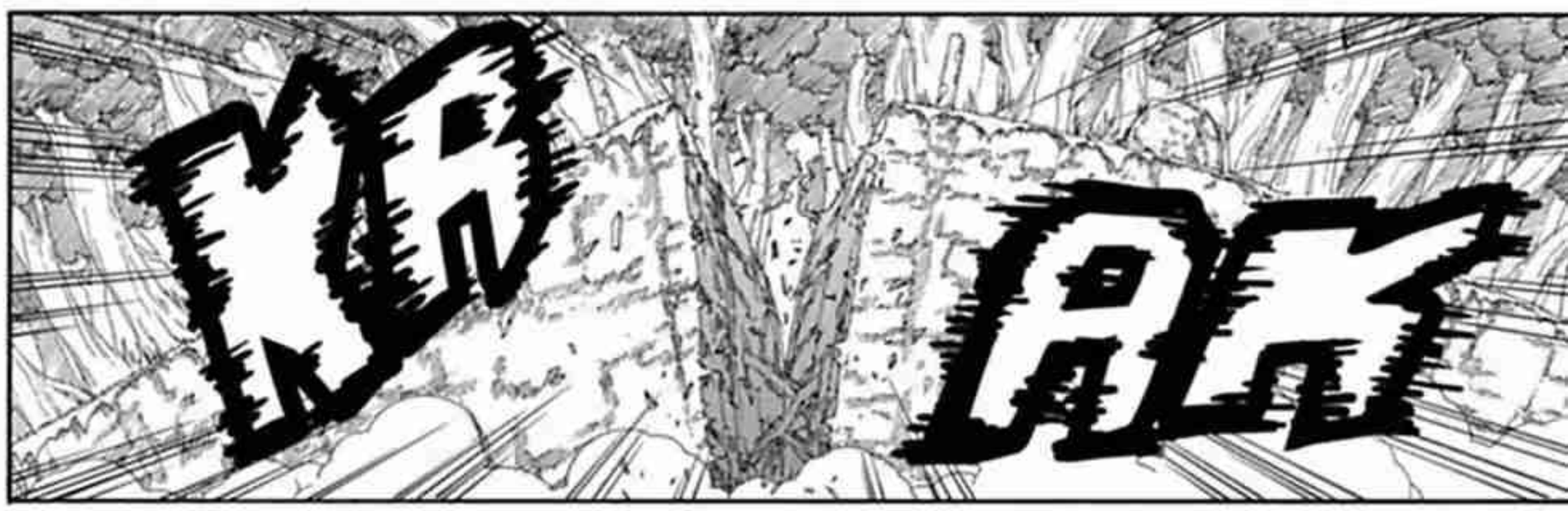
PLANET SPLITTER!!

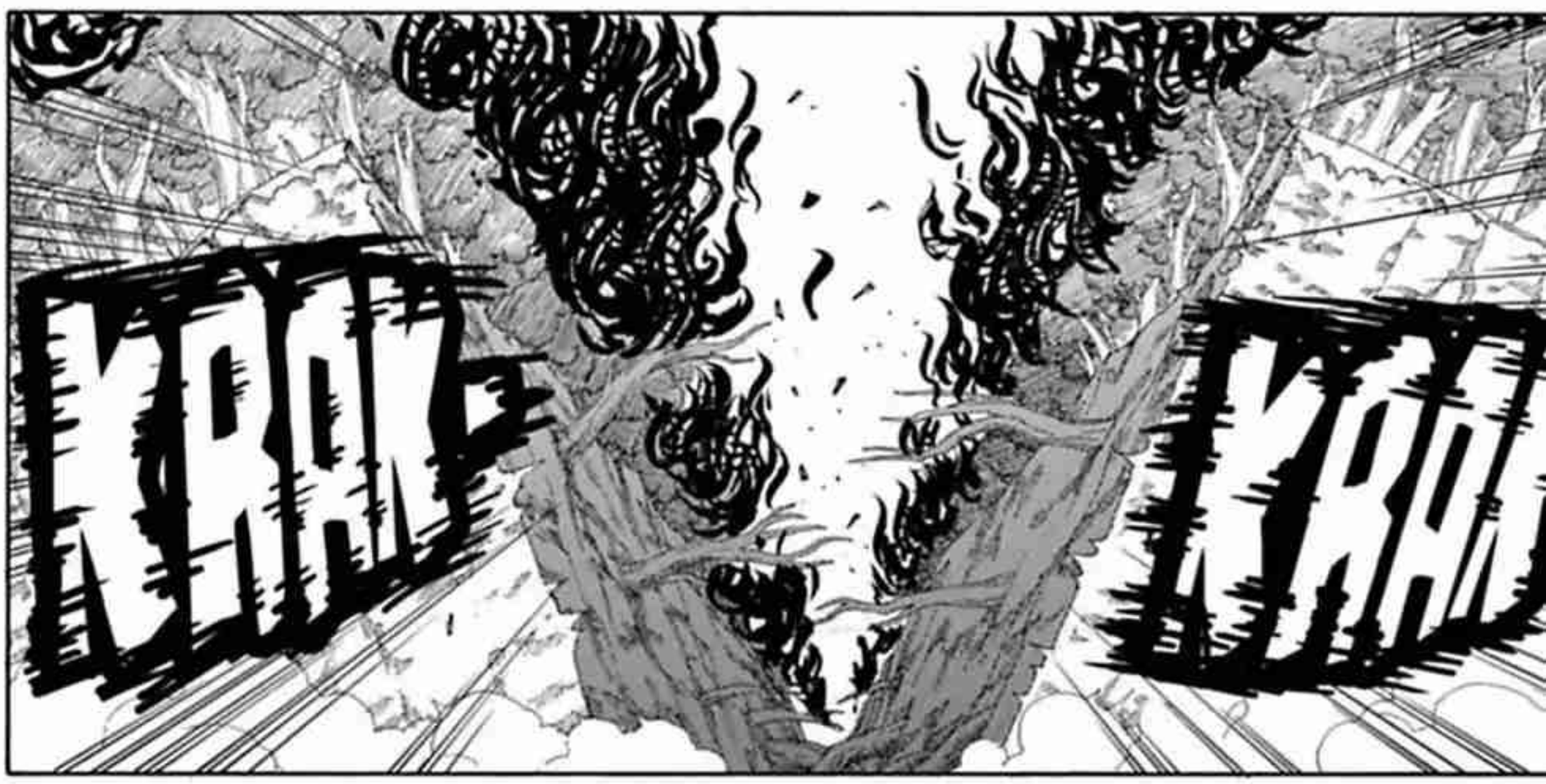
EARTH STYLE!

TA K

FWP

FWOOM


KRR
PAK


KRRR
KRR

ALL RIGHT! ALL BUT YAMATO, FOLLOW ME!

YOU CAN PROCEED NOW!

WHOOSH

SHK
EEN

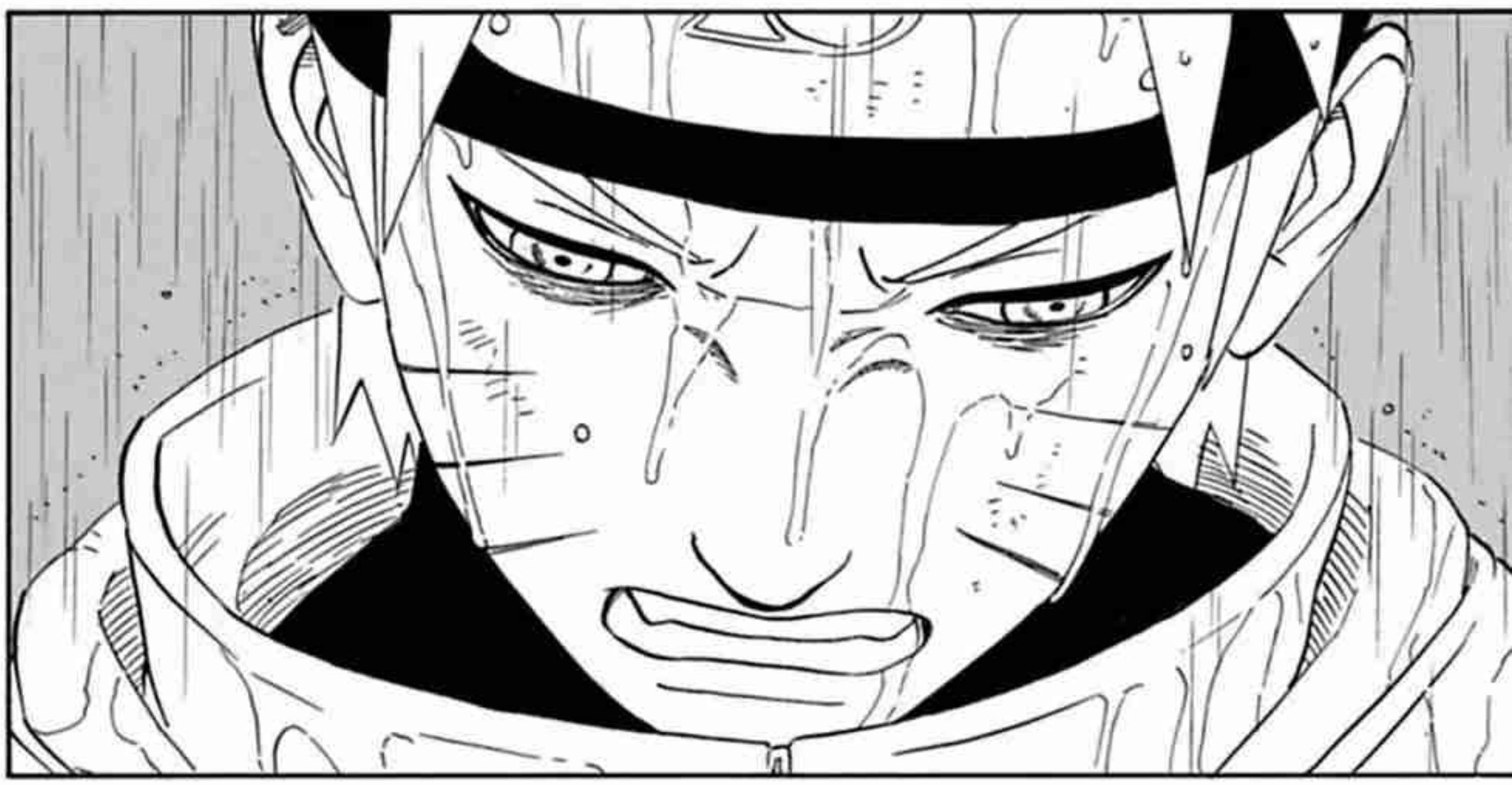
SSSH...

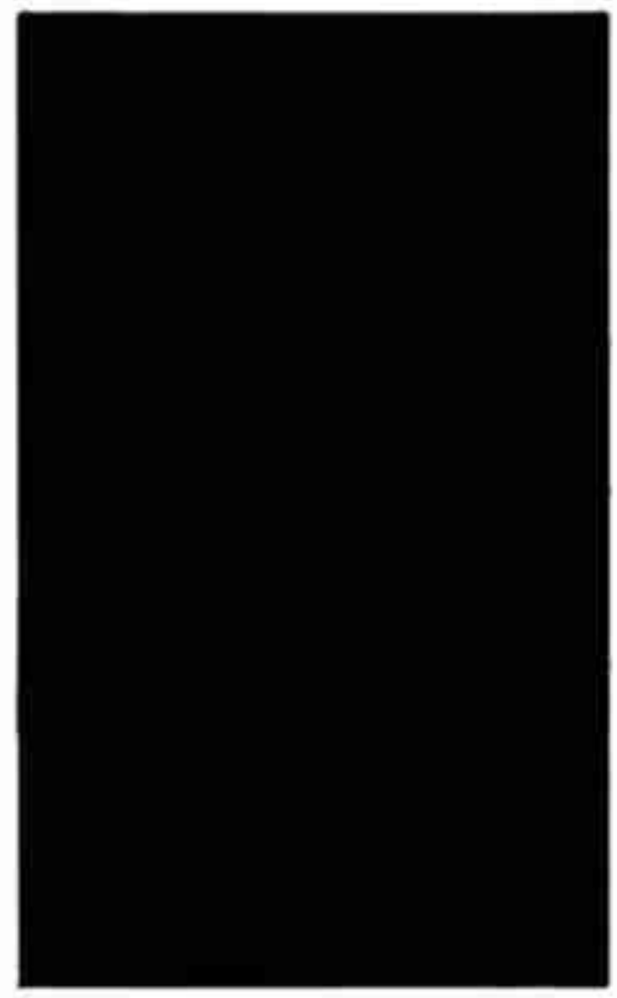
SPLASH

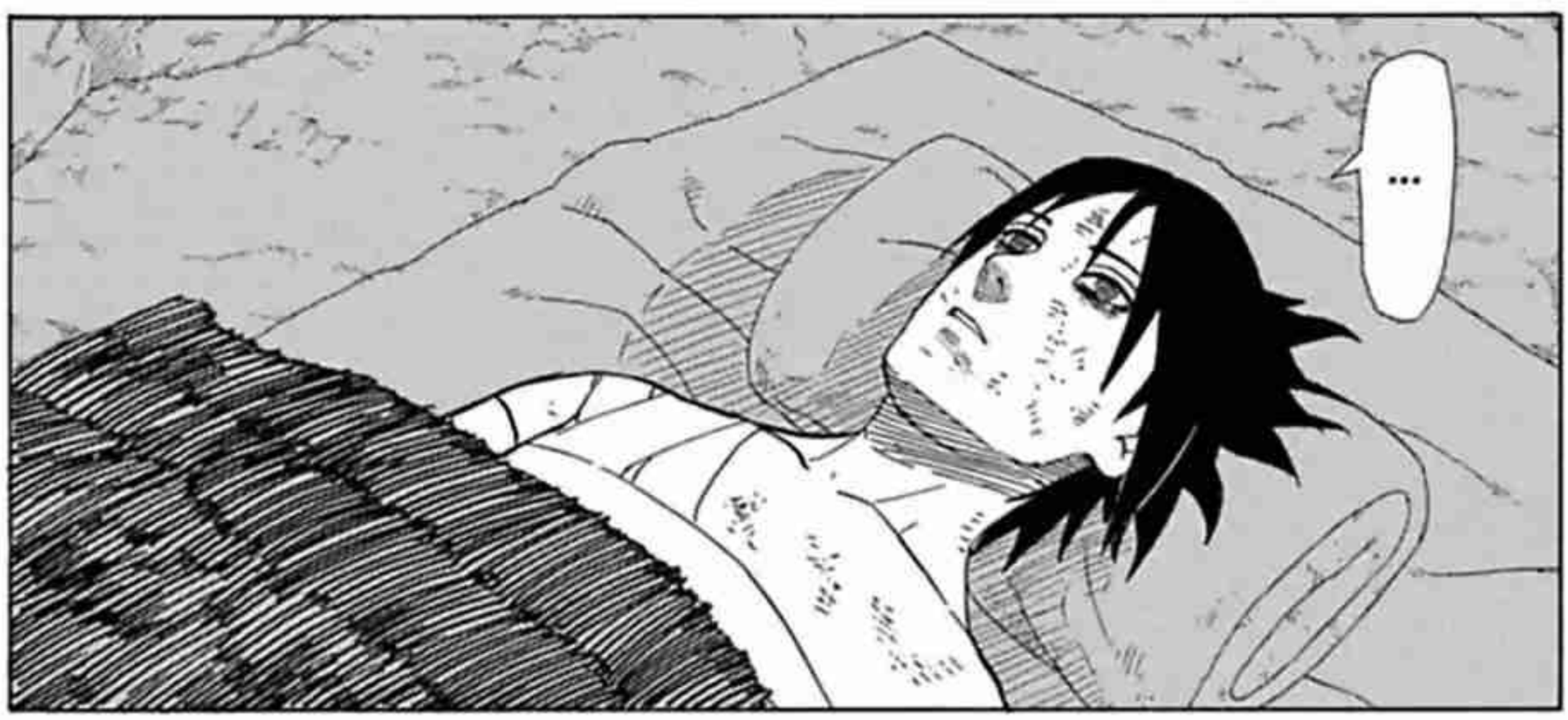
NARUTO ...

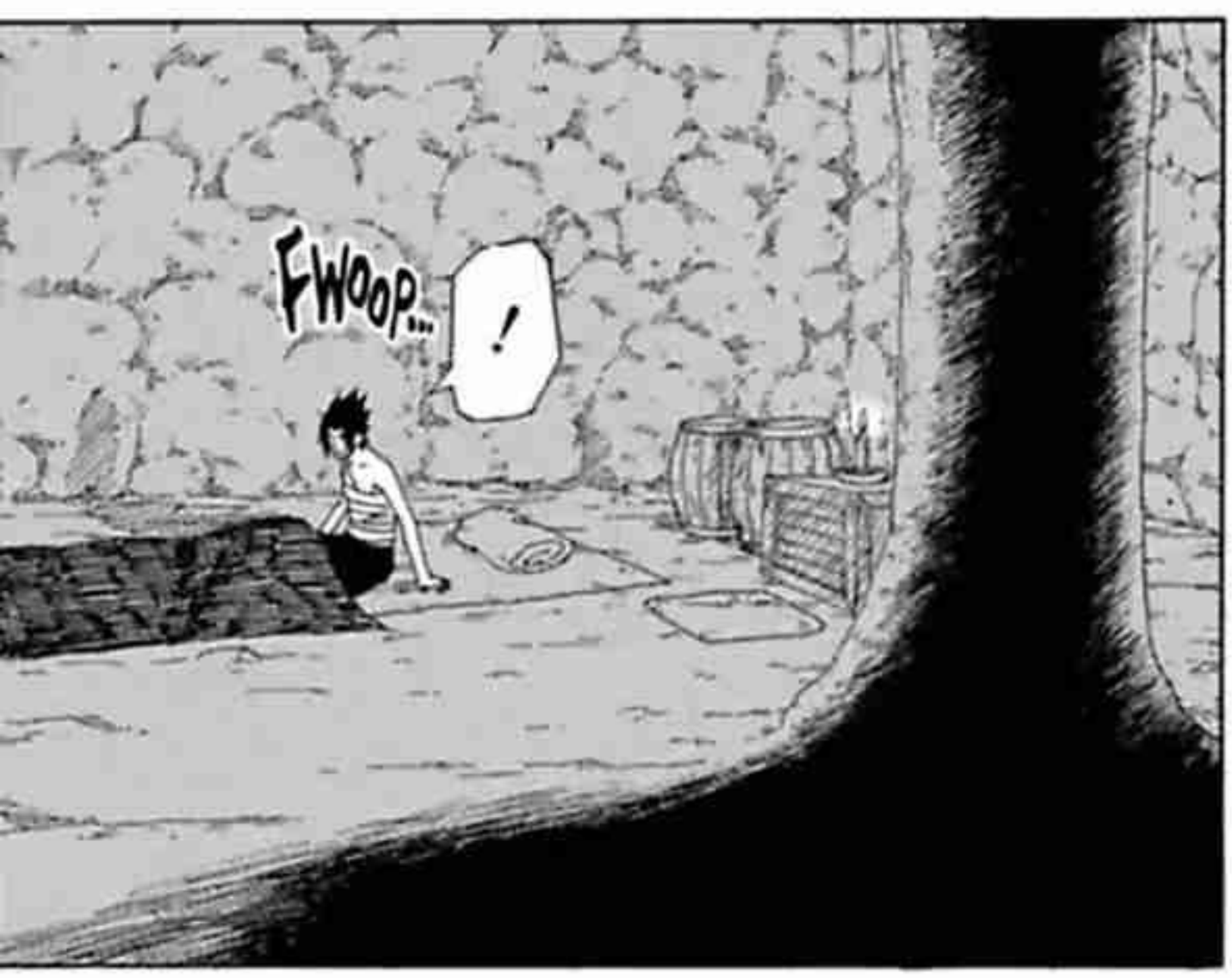
WE'RE TOO LATE, HUH...

... THERE'S A FAINT TRACE OF SCENT LEFT... BUT...






...

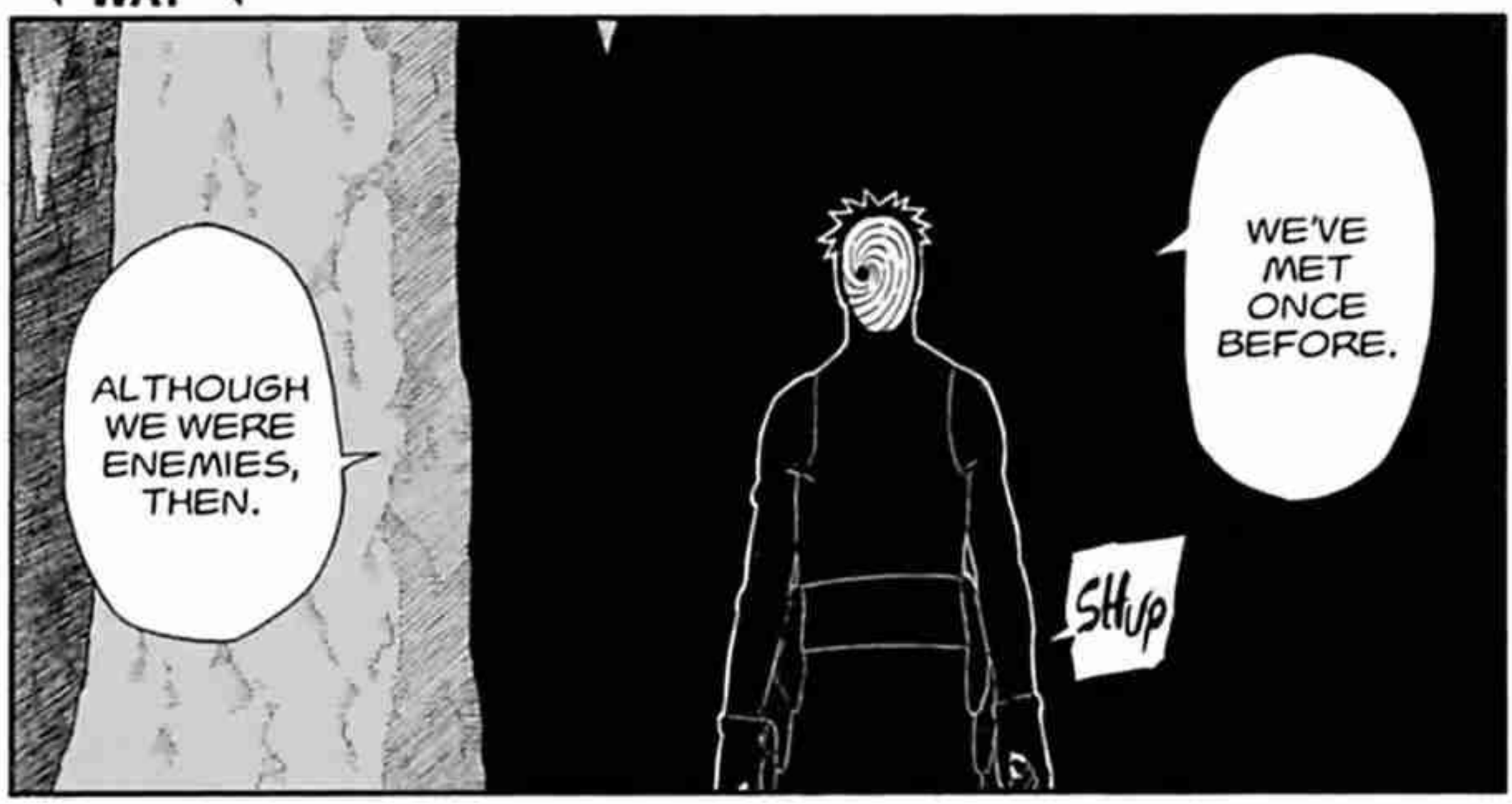

FWOOP...
!

I TREATED YOUR WOUNDS.

YOU WON.

...

SO I WOULDN'T MOVE MORE THAN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
BUT YOU'VE SUFFERED QUITE A BIT OF DAMAGE YOURSELF, WHICH YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY OVER.


ALTHOUGH WE WERE ENEMIES, THEN.
WE'VE MET ONCE BEFORE.
SHUP

...

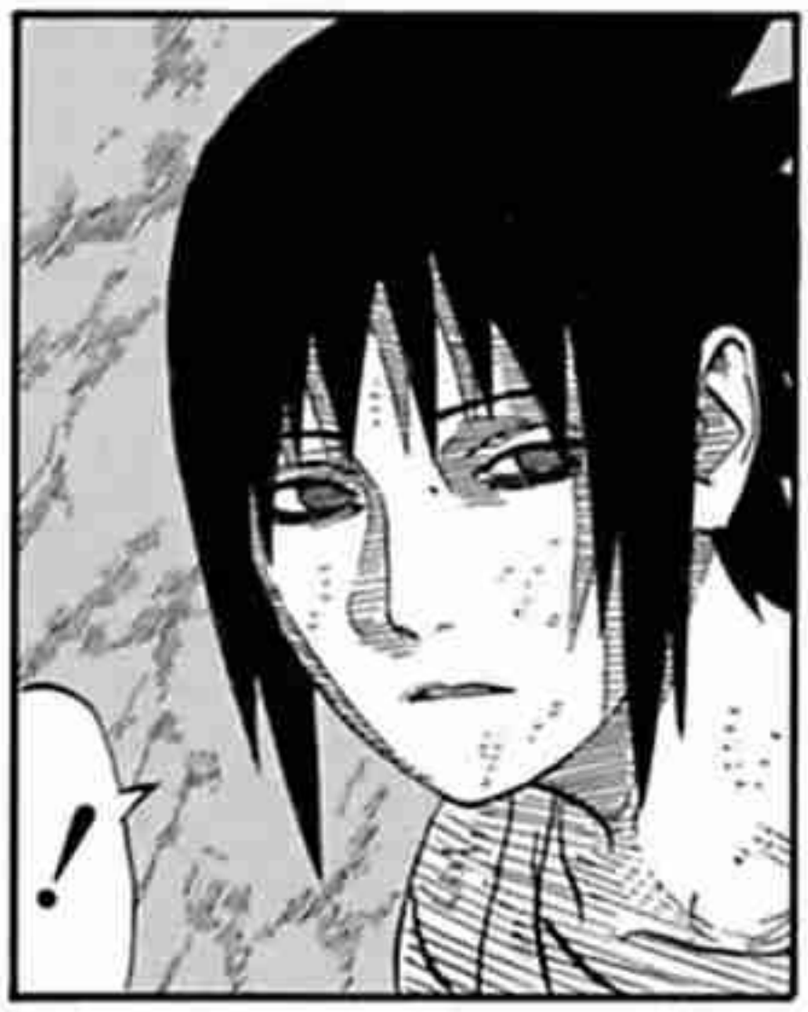
I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY.
DON'T WORRY, I DON'T HOLD DEIDARA'S DEATH AGAINST YOU.

I BROUGHT YOU HERE IN ORDER TO TELL YOU SOME-THING.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU...

NOT INTER-ESTED, HUH...

...IT'S ABOUT UCHIHA ITACHI.


!

...AN UCHIHA SURVIVOR...
I AM, LIKE YOU...
CHOK...

...AND ONE WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT UCHIHA ITACHI...

VEE
EE

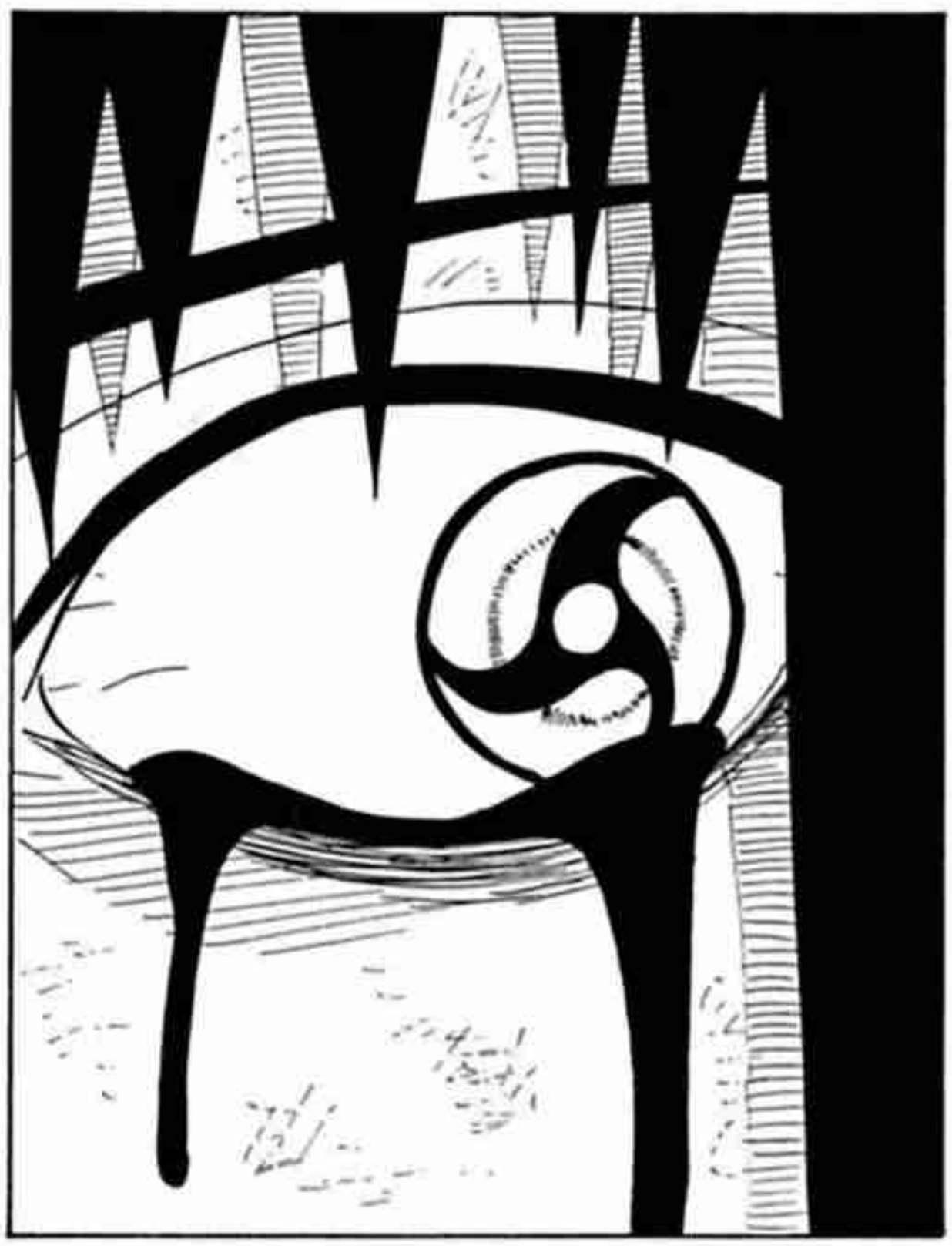
Number 397: The Man with the Truth

I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT UCHIHA ITACHI.

BWOIP...

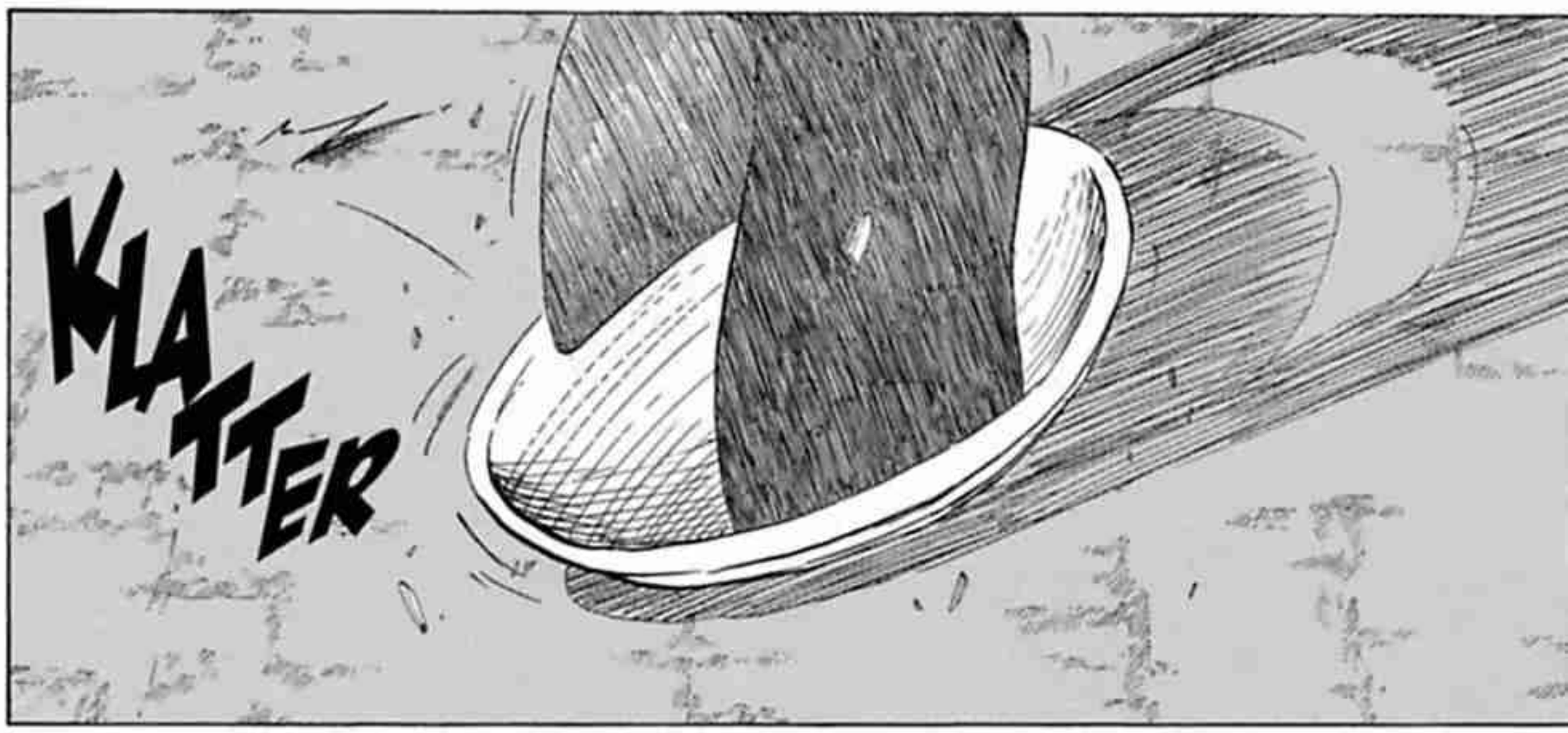
SQUILCH...

!



READ THIS WAY
NO WAY?!
WHOO

Number 397: The Man with the Truth



UGH!

WHUMP

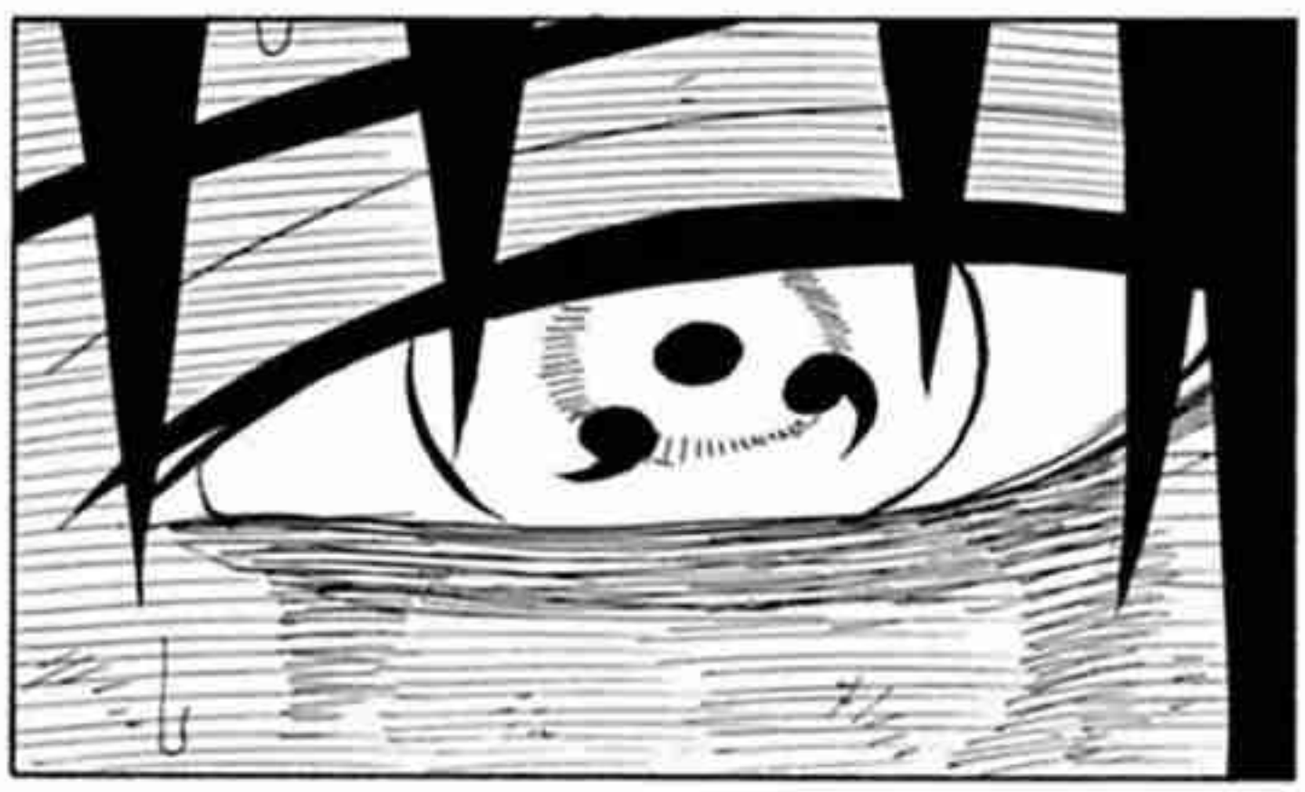
UNH...

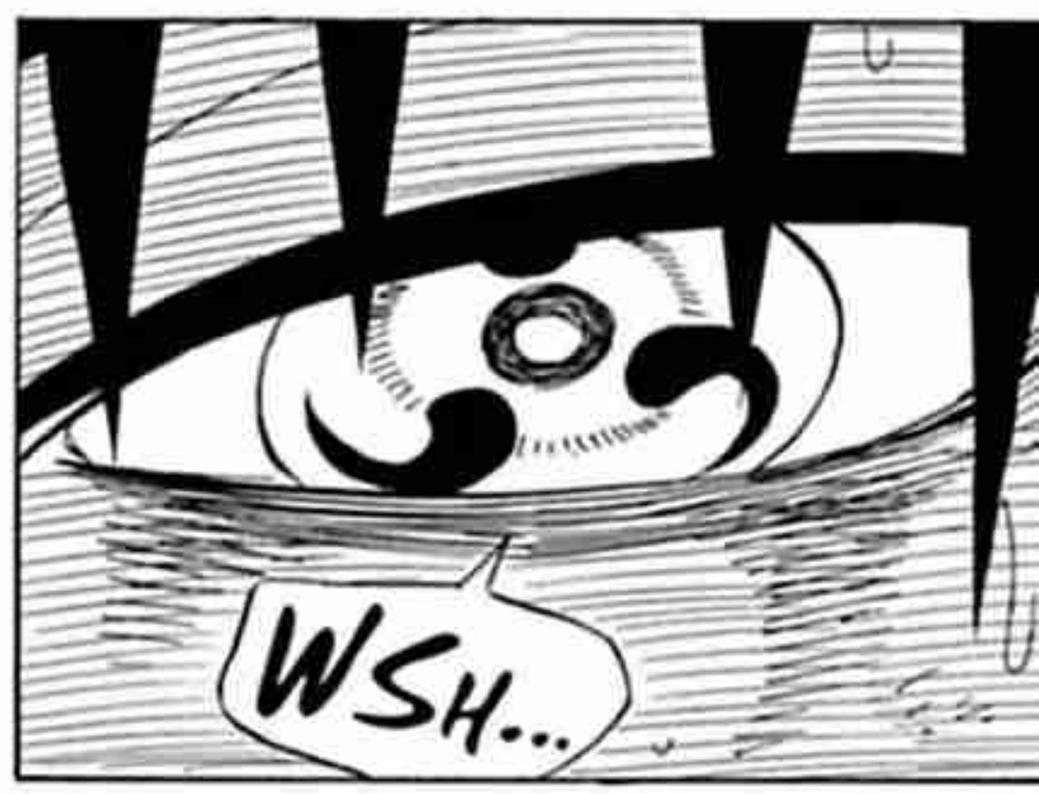
GAAARGH!!

HUF
HUF

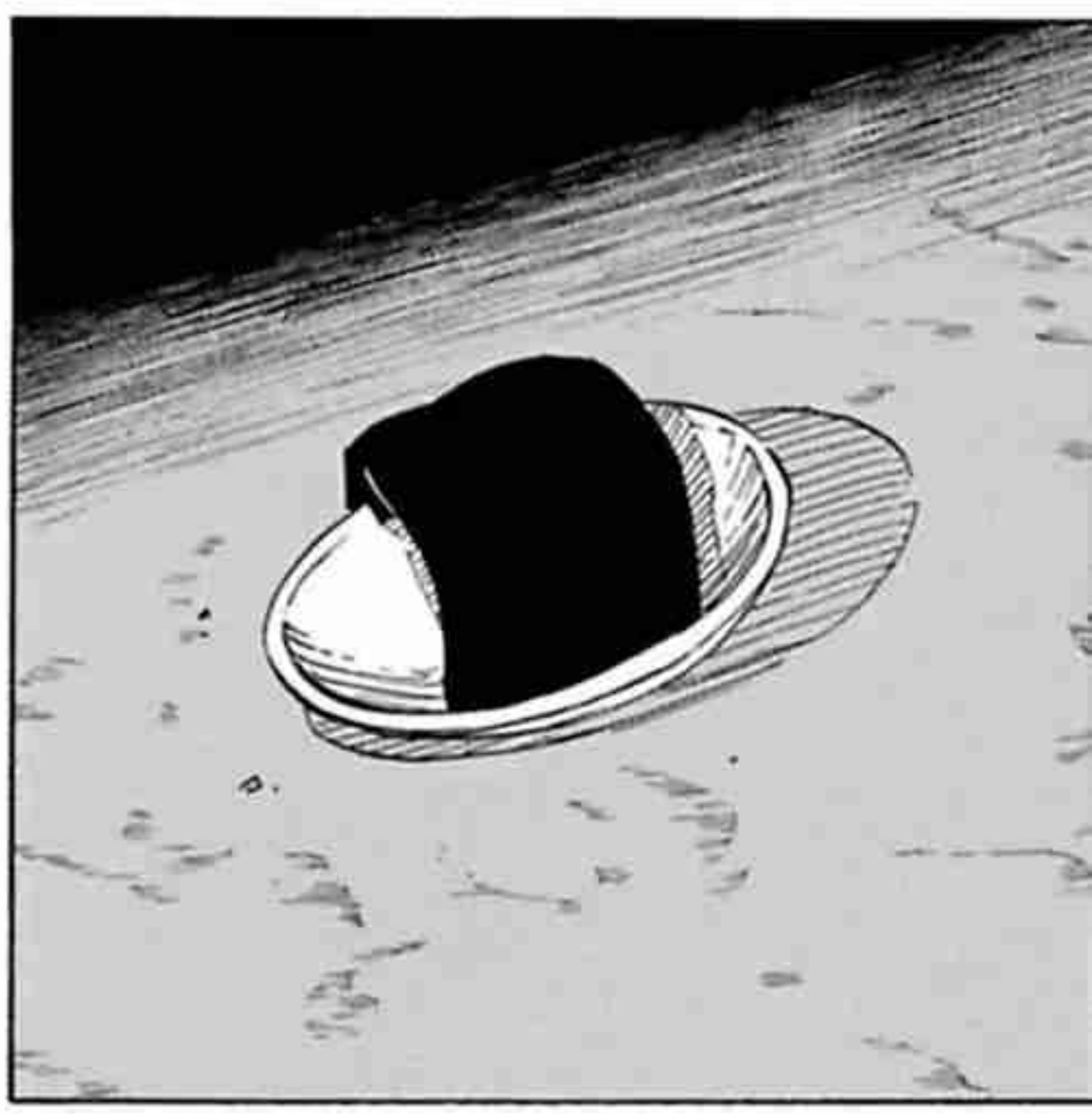
HUF
HUF

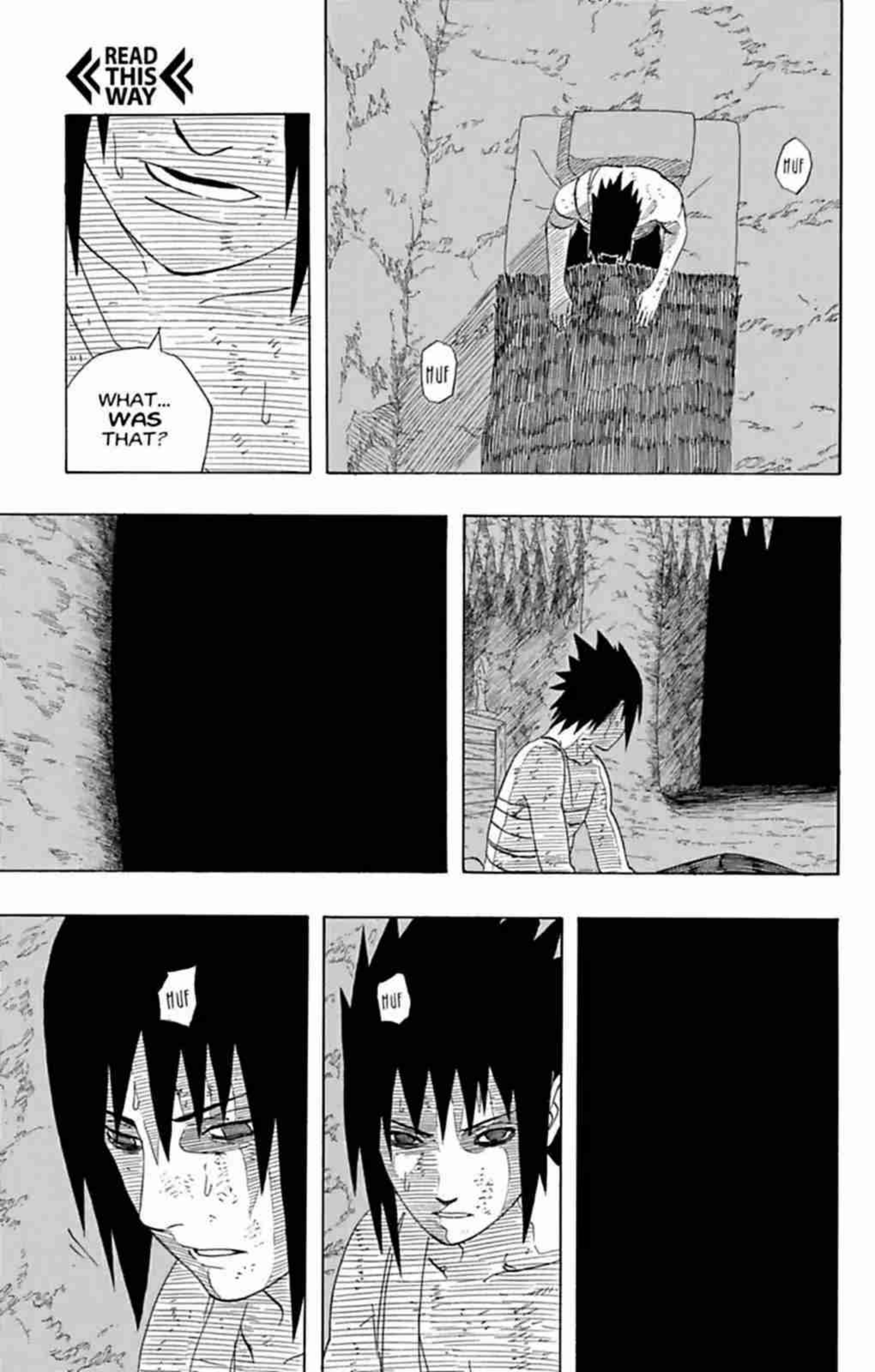
HUF
HUF




WSH...

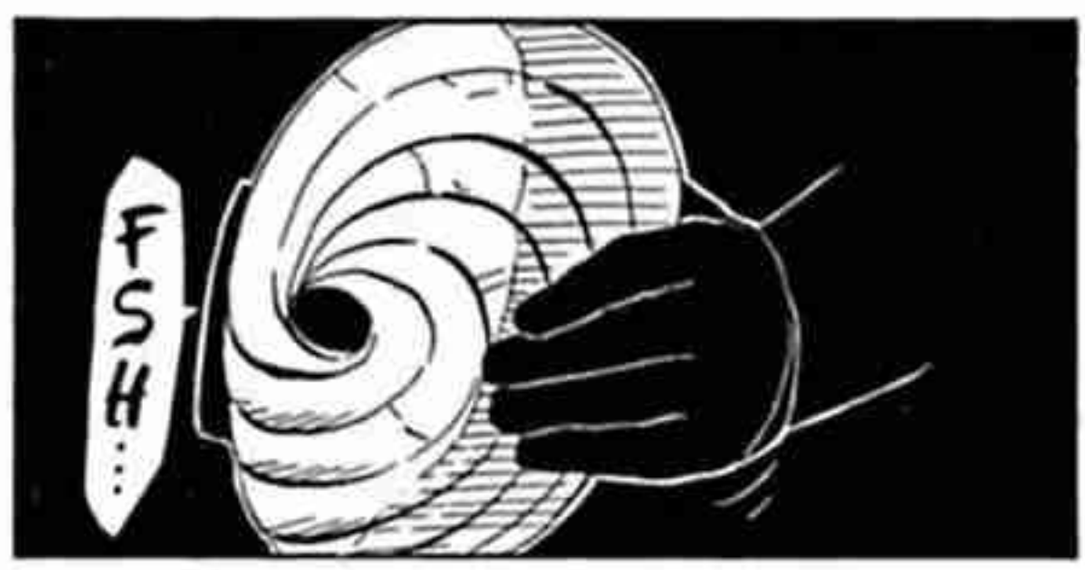
HUF
HUF



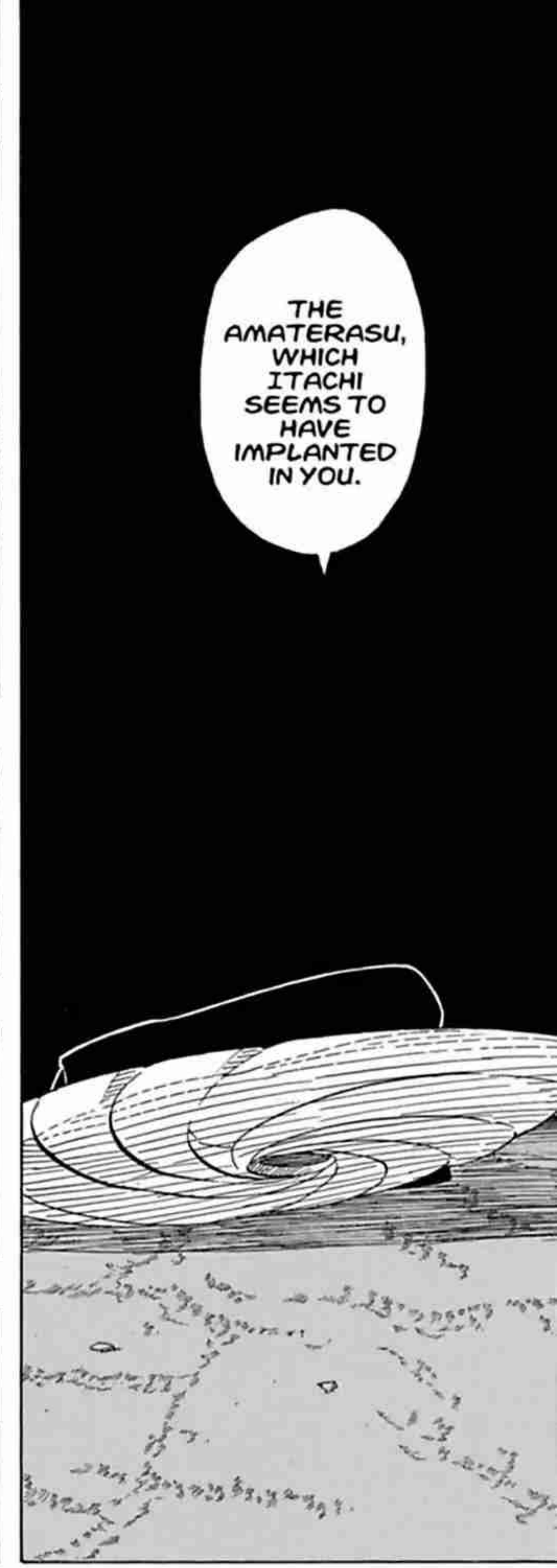

READ THIS WAY
WHAT... WAS THAT?
MUF
MUF
MUF
MUF

!!

SSH


FSH...

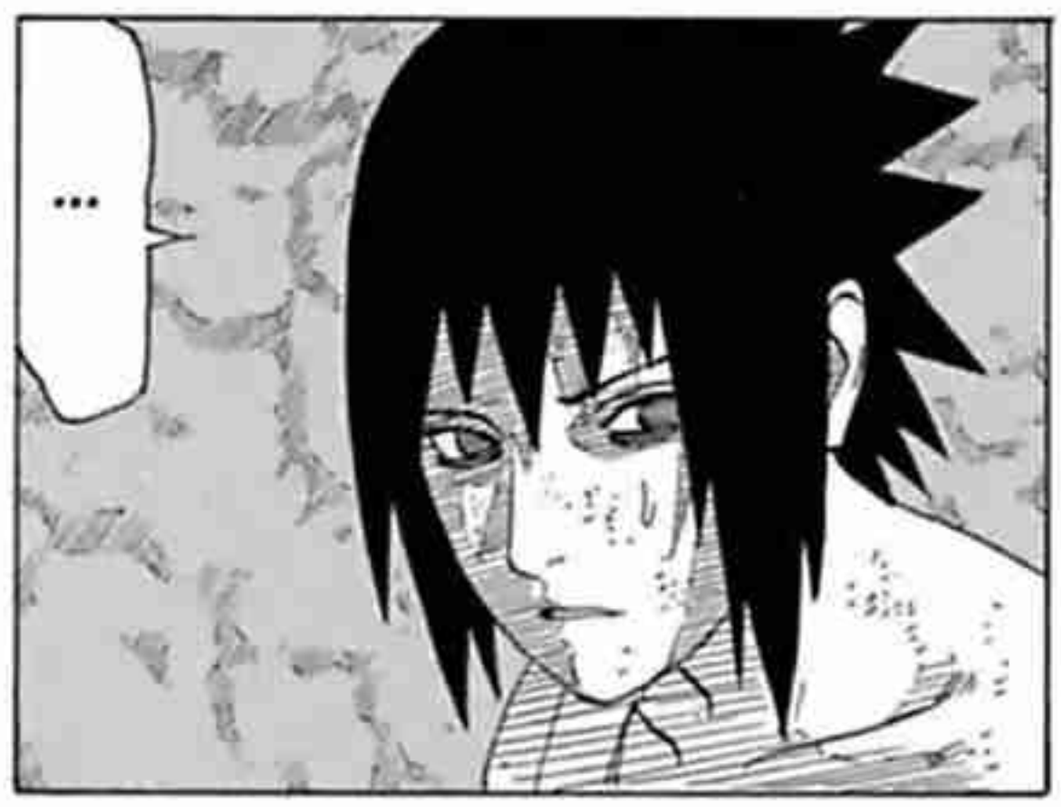
...?


THE AMATERASU, WHICH ITACHI SEEMS TO HAVE IMPLANTED IN YOU.

LEAVE IT TO ITACHI TO SET A POST-MORTEM TRAP.
SHUP...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW WELL HE PLANS AHEAD...

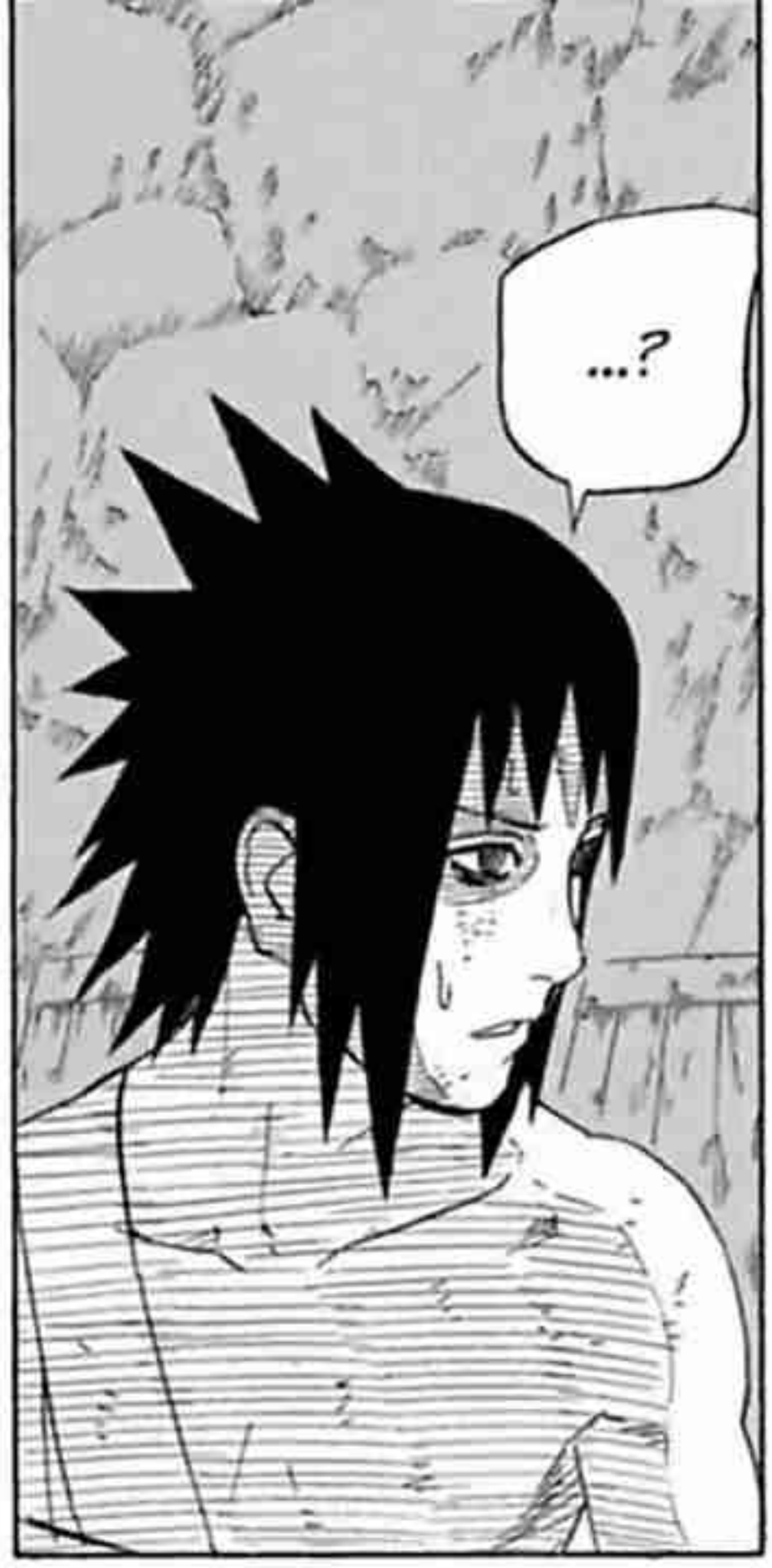
KRIK

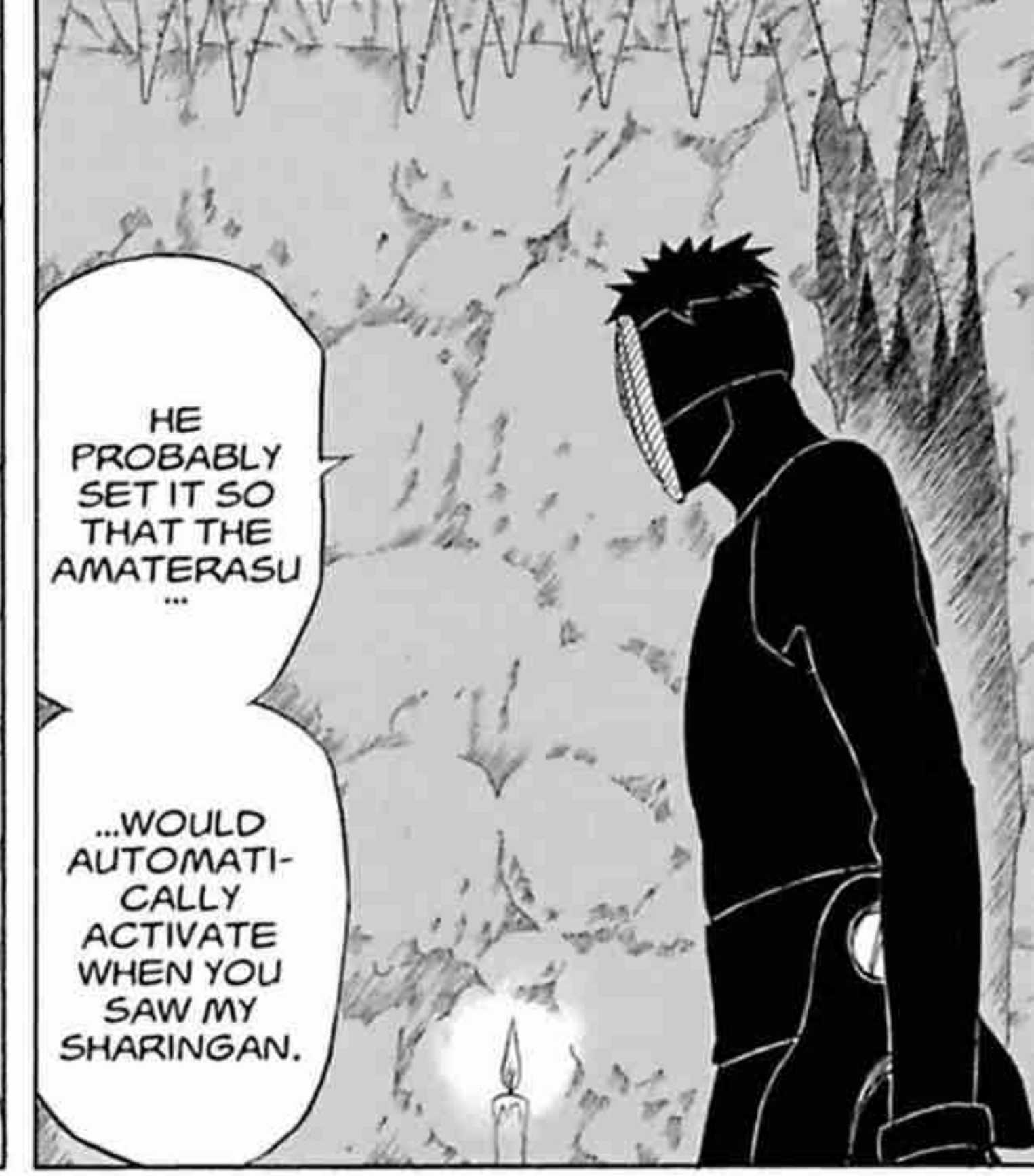
WHAT...
...ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

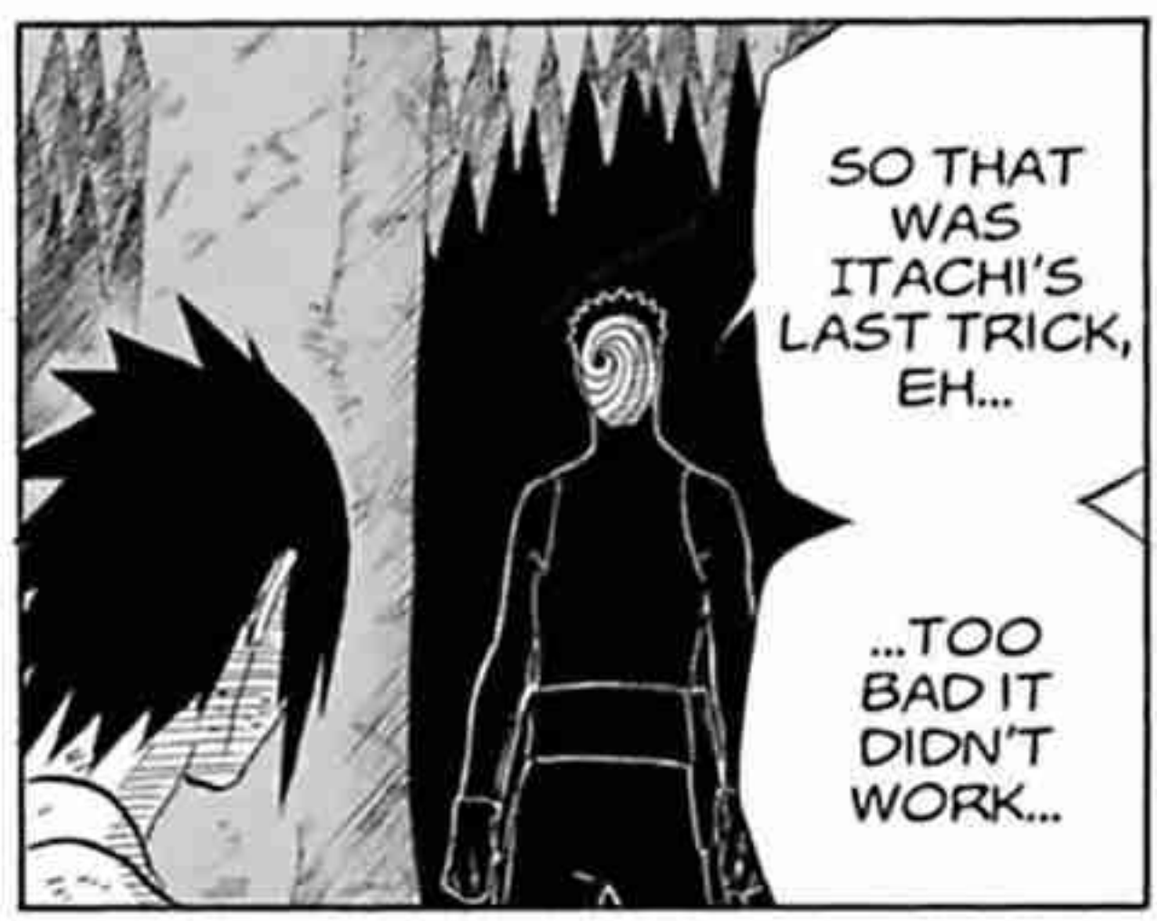

...

?

...OR AT LEAST TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM YOU...
IN ORDER TO KILL ME, ITACHI PLACED A JUTSU IN YOU...


...?


HE PROBABLY SET IT SO THAT THE AMATERASU ...
...WOULD AUTOMATI-CALLY ACTIVATE WHEN YOU SAW MY SHARINGAN.

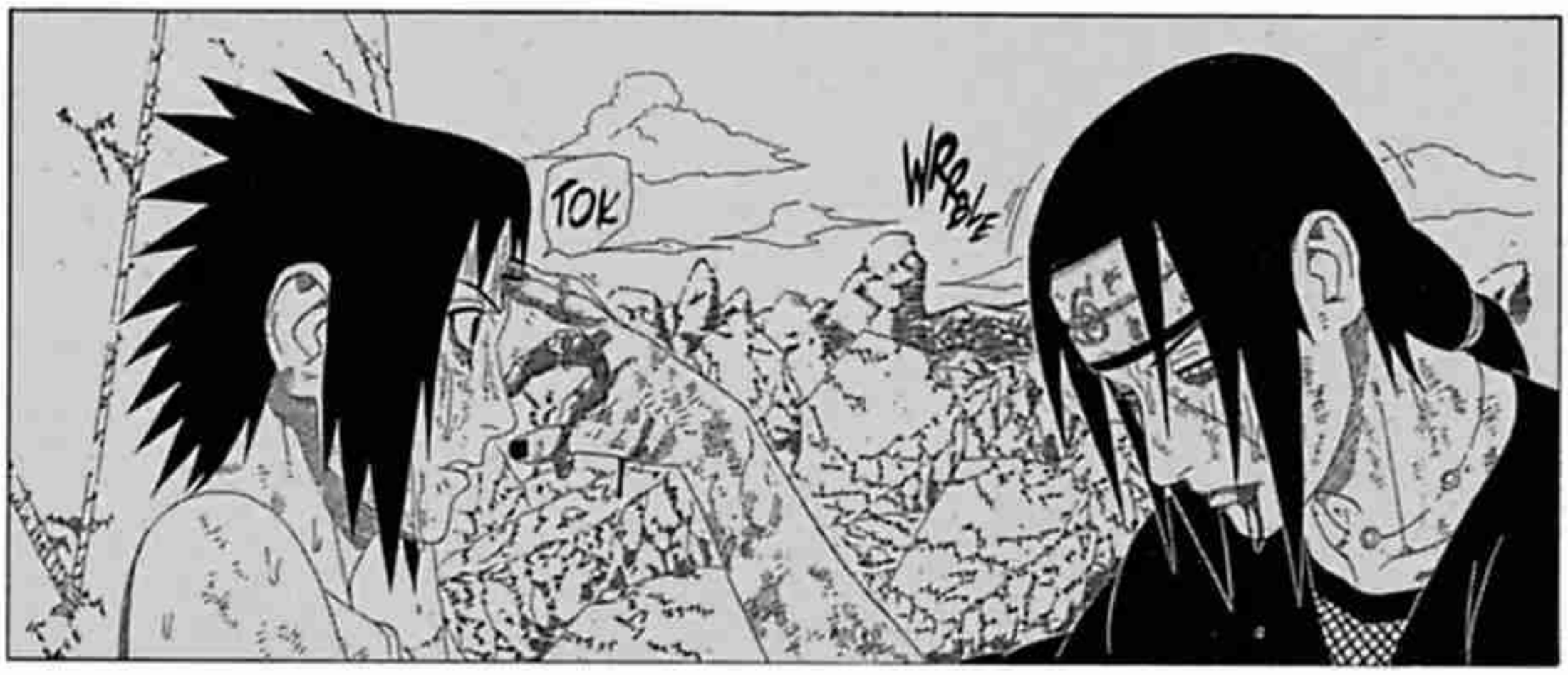

SO THAT WAS ITACHI'S LAST TRICK, EH...
...TOO BAD IT DIDN'T WORK...

...OR ELSE I WOULD BE DEAD.
WELL, THANK-FULLY ITACHI DIDN'T KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT ME...

ITACHI MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO YOU BEFORE HE DIED.

...UH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

!

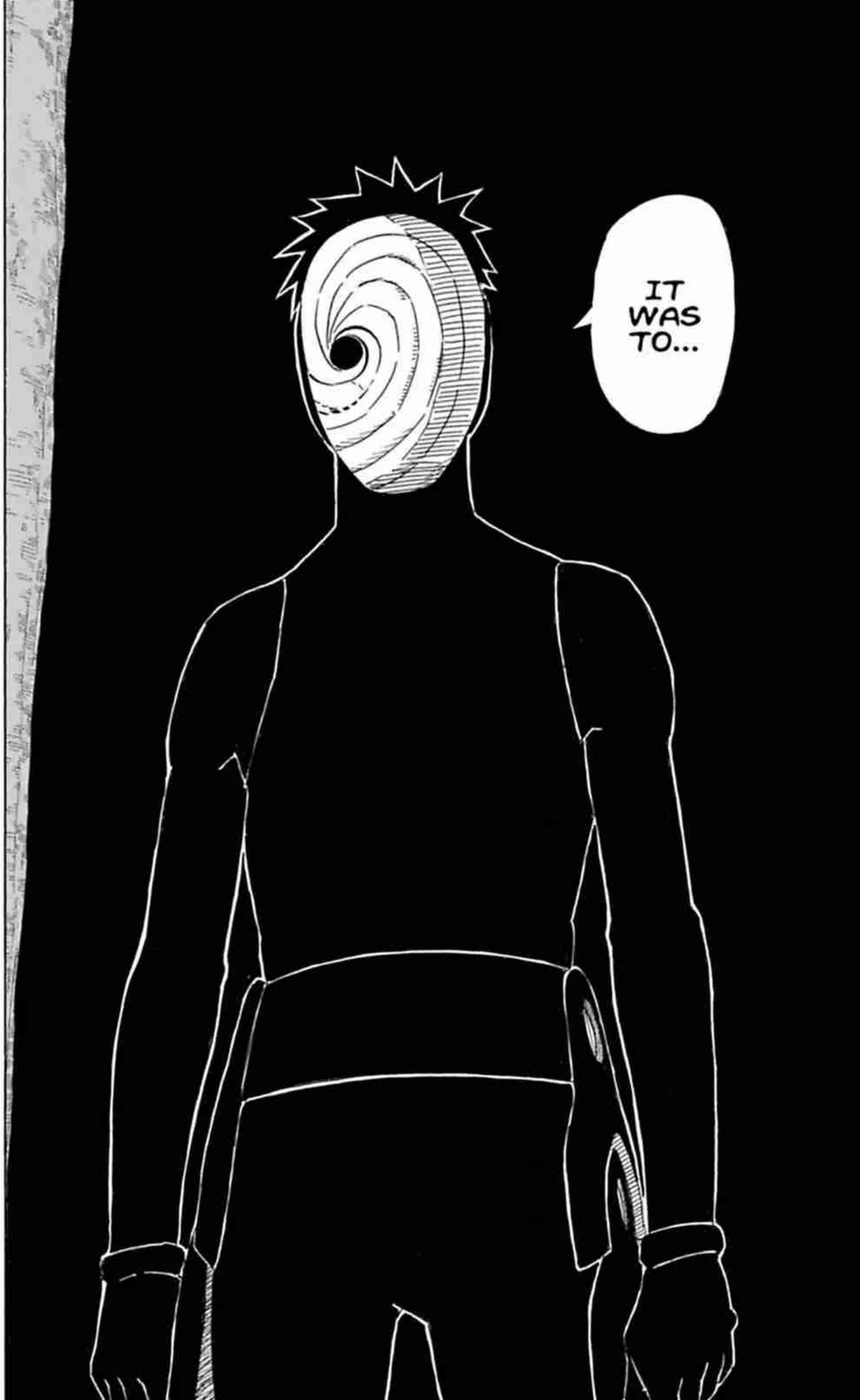

TOK
WRRBLE

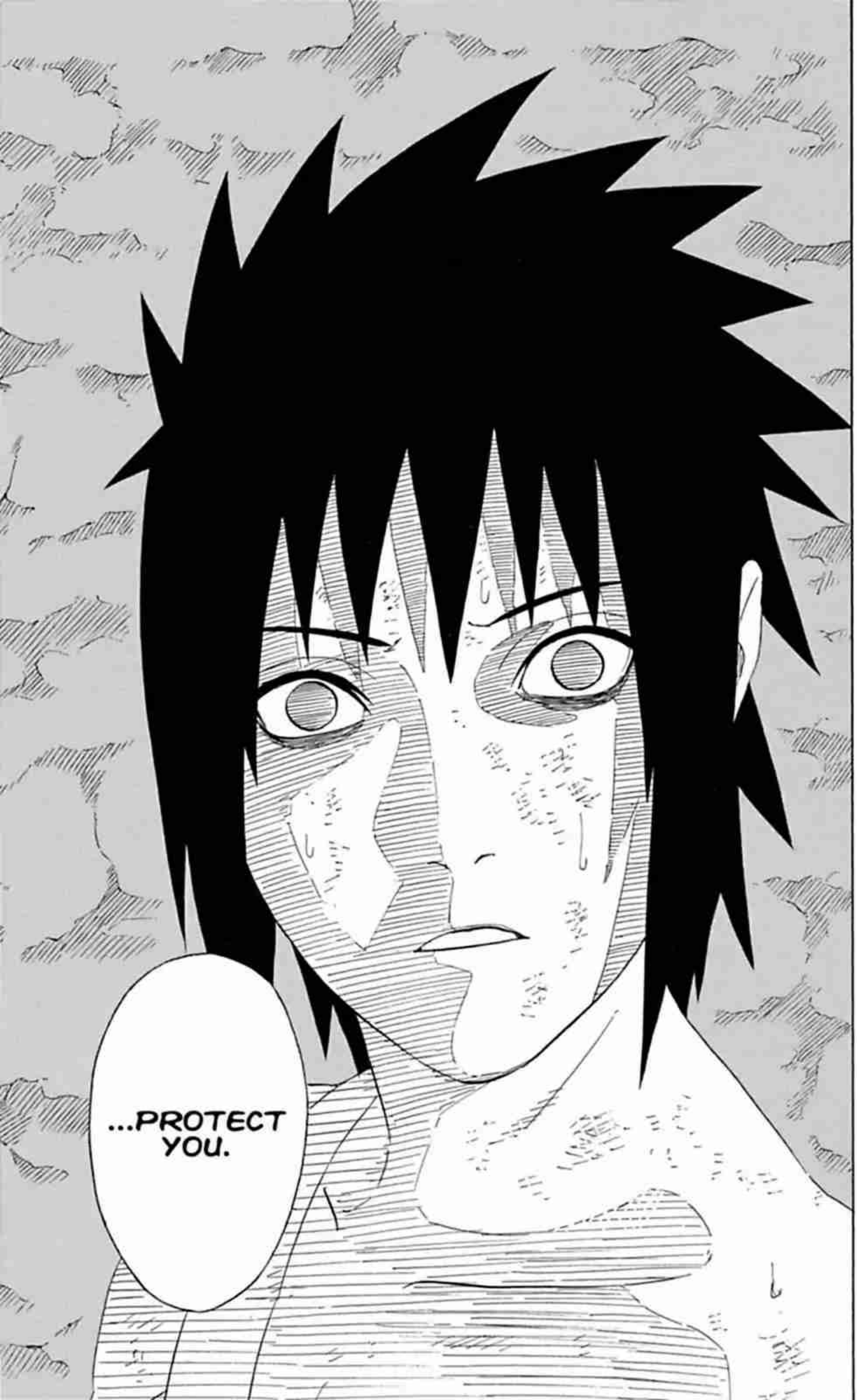
...WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR POINT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?

AT THE VERY END... HE TRANS-FERRED HIS OWN OCULAR POWERS TO YOU.

?!

WHY WOULD ITACHI DO SUCH A THING...
DON'T YOU GET IT?


IT WAS TO...


...PROTECT YOU.

...

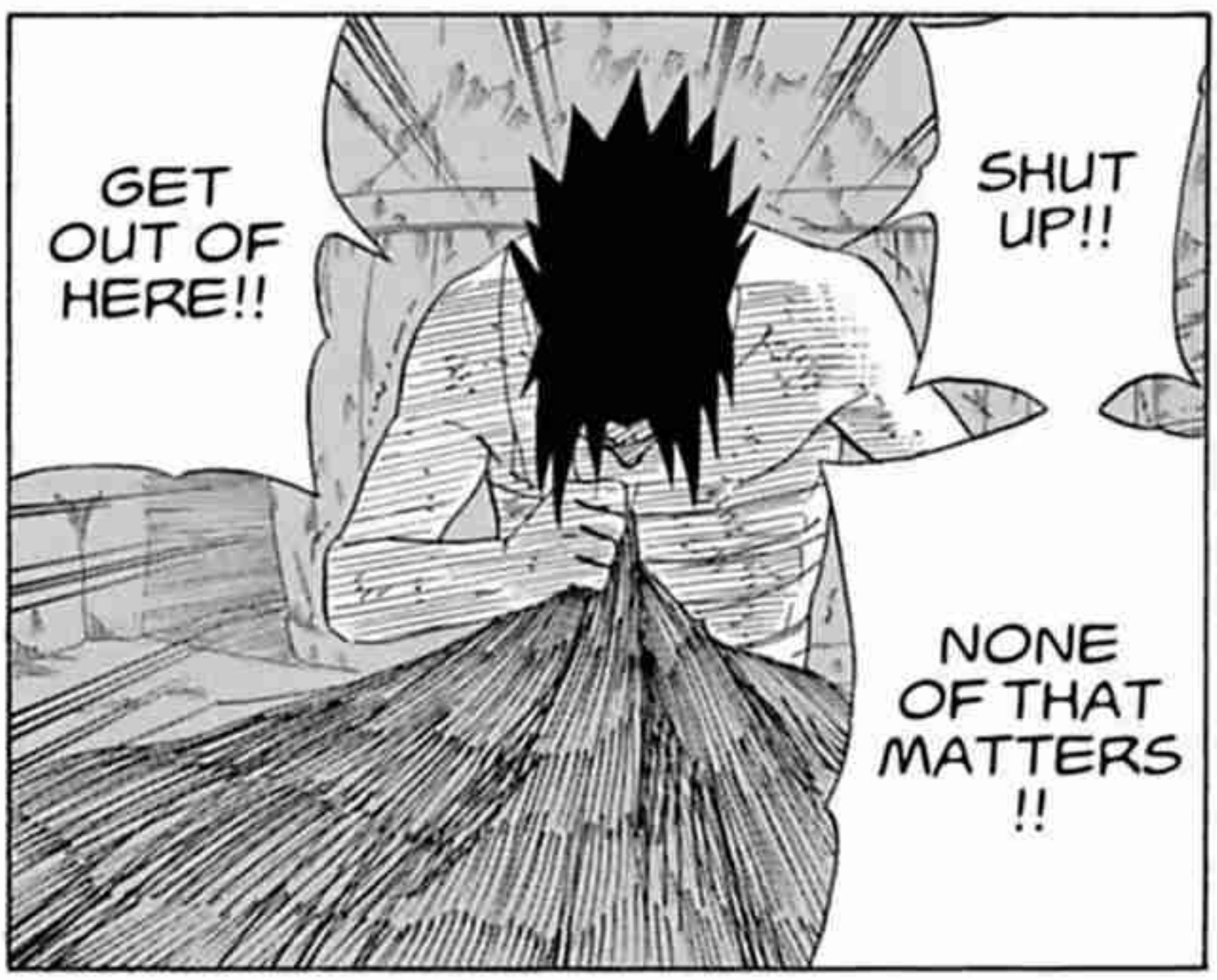
TO PRO-TECT ME...?!
...PRO-TECT?

...

ARE YOU KID-DING...?!

READ THIS WAY
...
KRNNCH
YOU DO NOT KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.
I REPEAT.
UNDER-STAND-ABLE...
...YOU DON'T TRUST ME. YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
YOU'RE NOT MAKING THIS EASY, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE LYING...
...I'LL KILL YOU!
...
ITACHI DID MENTION IT, DID HE NOT?
HE WAS NOT ALONE THAT NIGHT...?
BUT... WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS THE TRUTH.

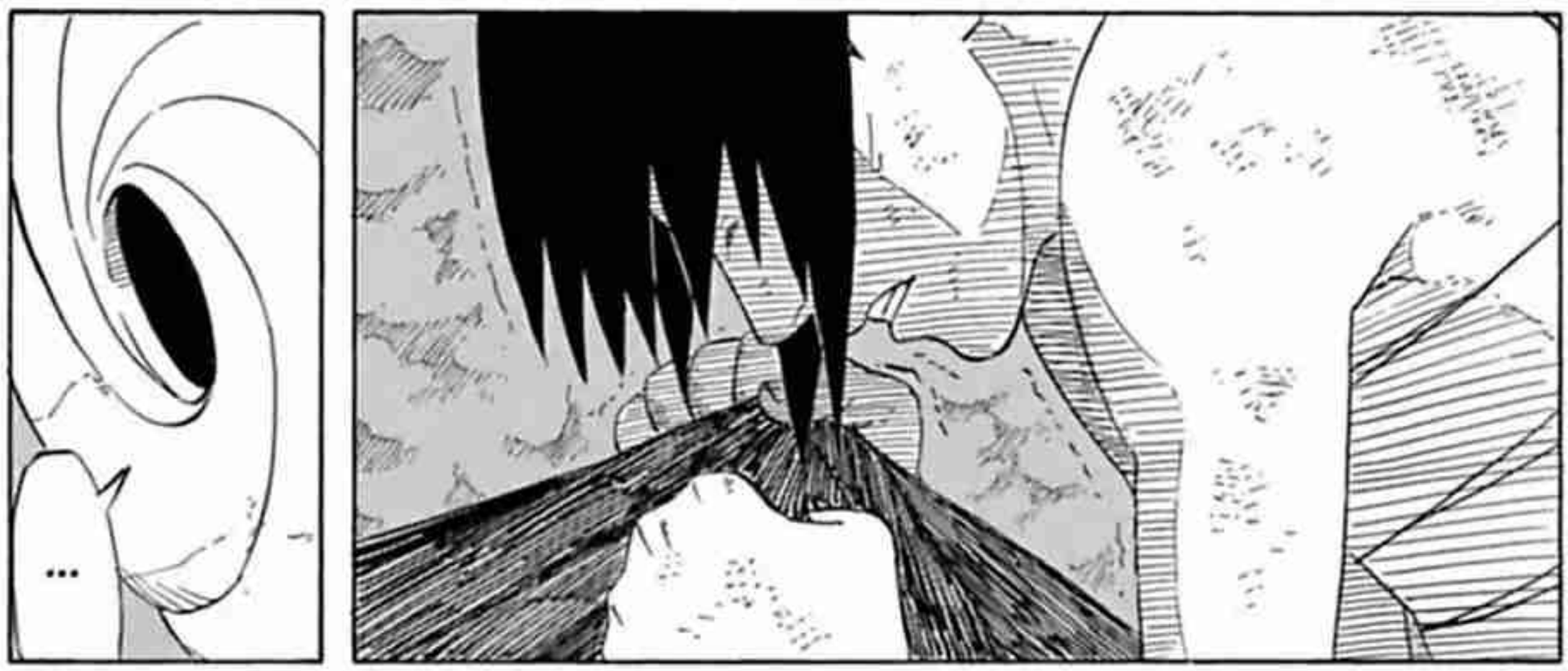
I AM UCHIHA MADARA.

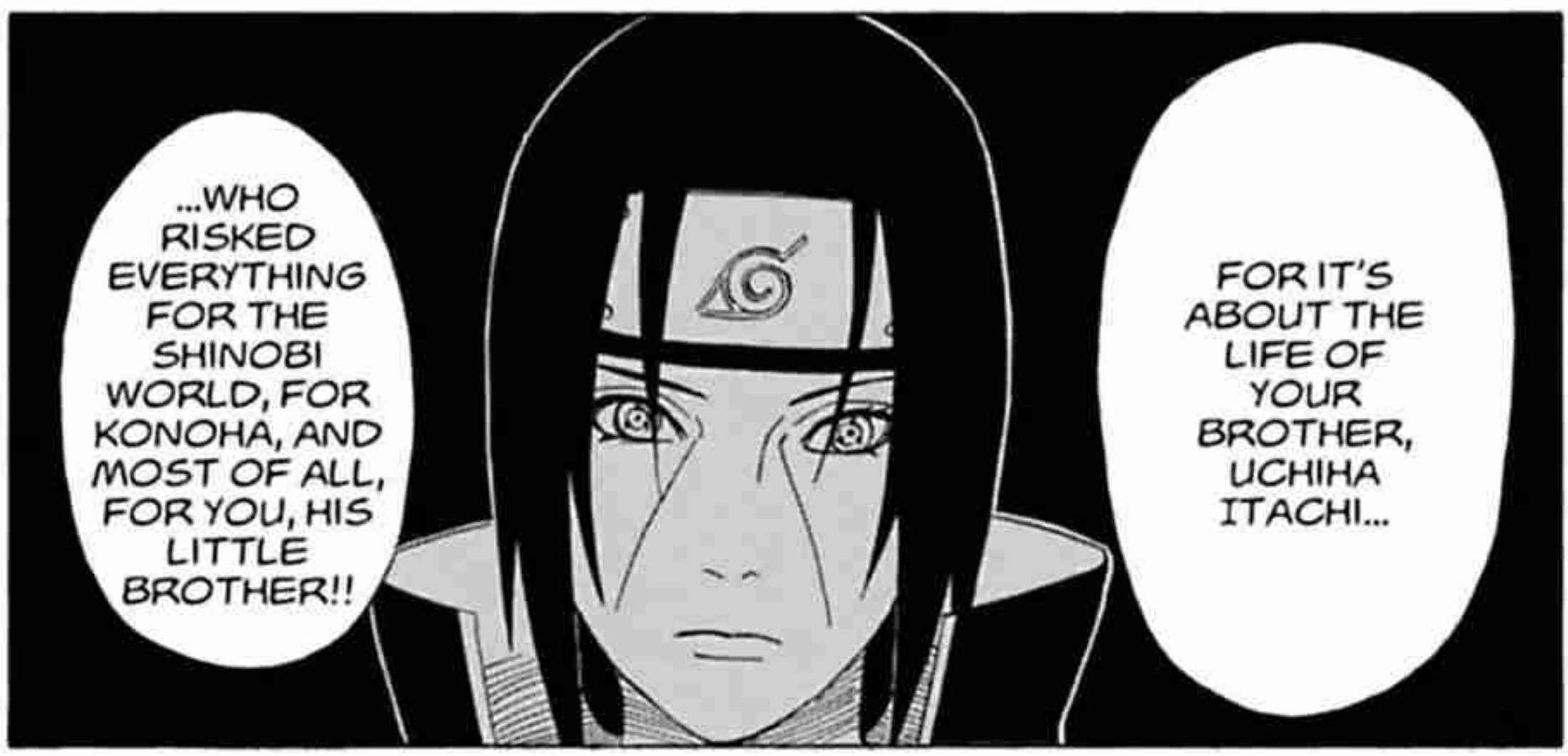


IT'S YOUR OBLIGATION!

NO, YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN TO ME.

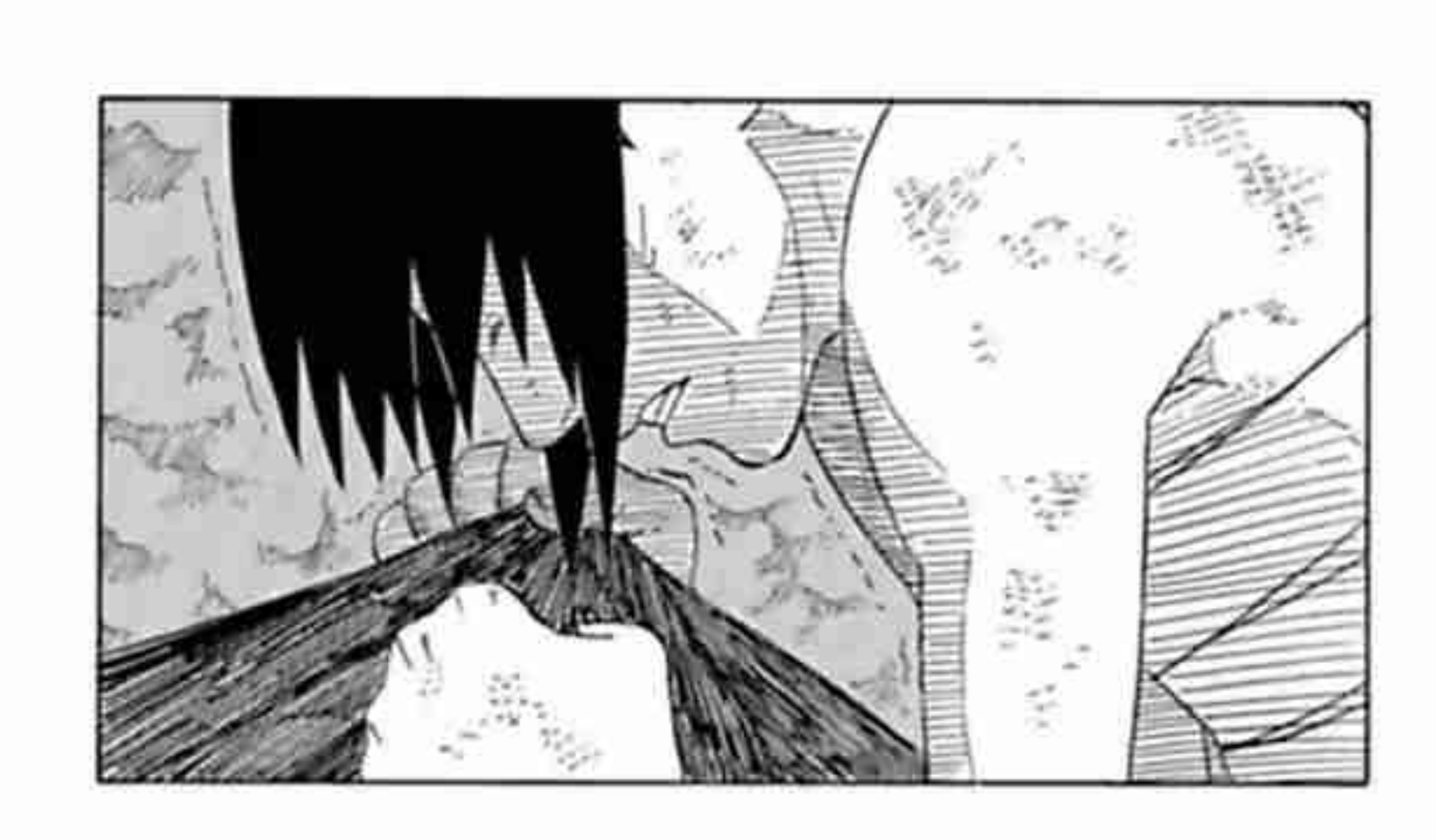
YOU MUST HEAR ME OUT!

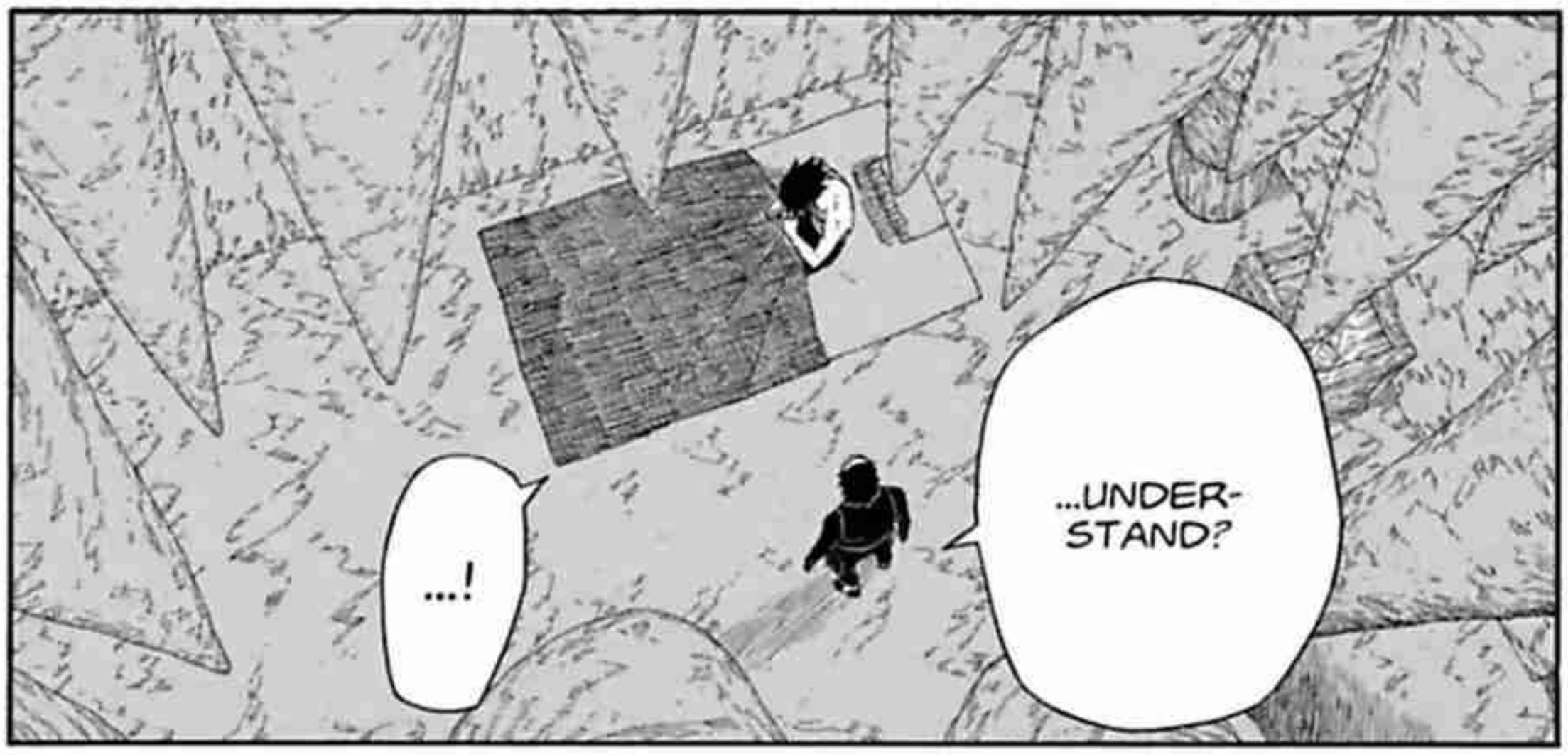


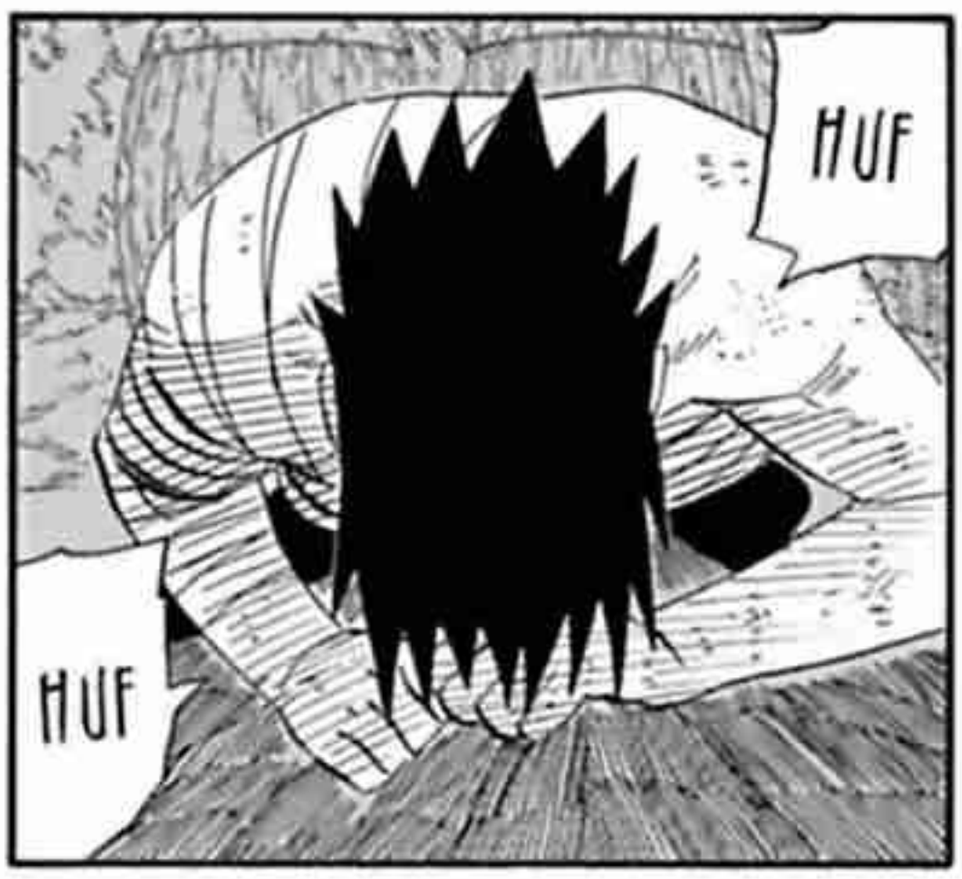


Number 398: The Origin of Konoha

NARUTO

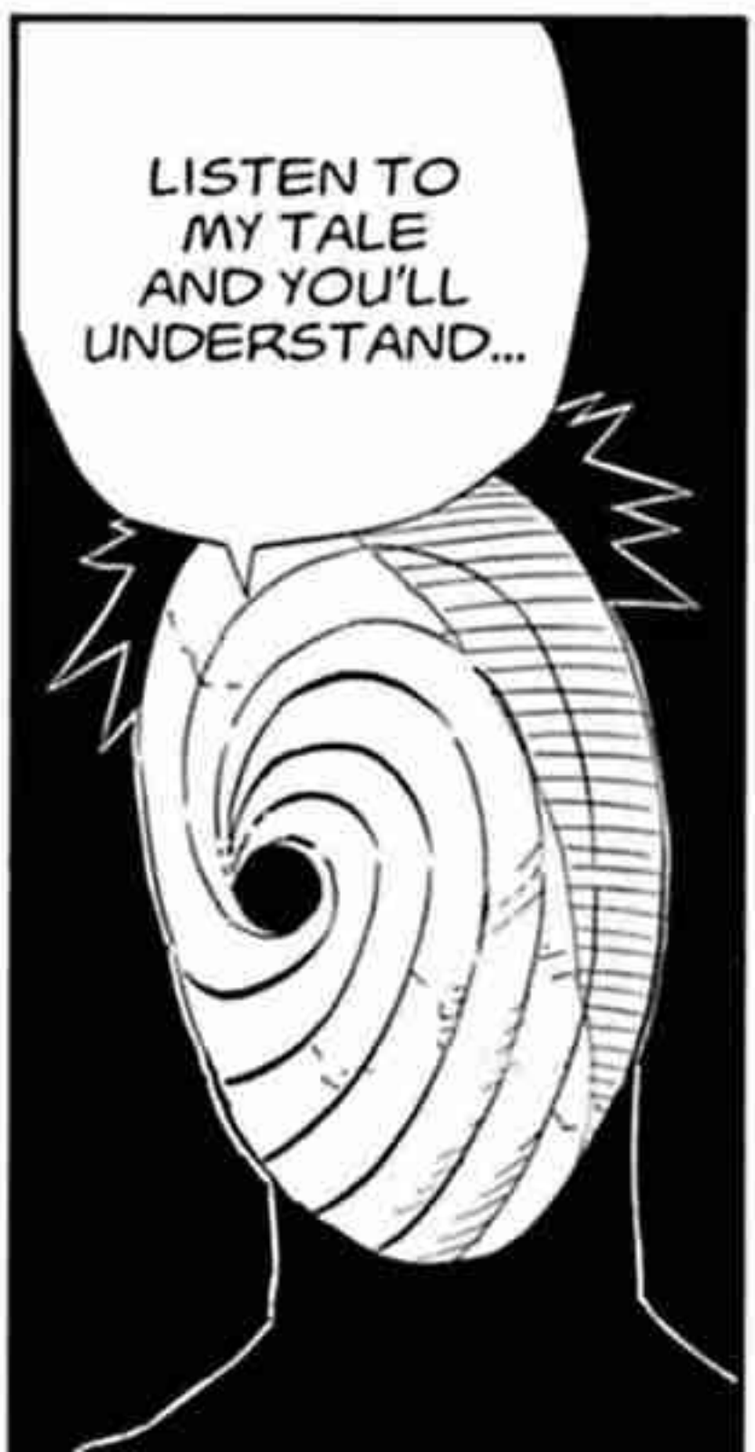



...!
...UNDER-STAND?


HUF
HUF

DO YOU KNOW WHY ITACHI...
...INSERTED THE AMA-TERASU INTO YOUR EYE?

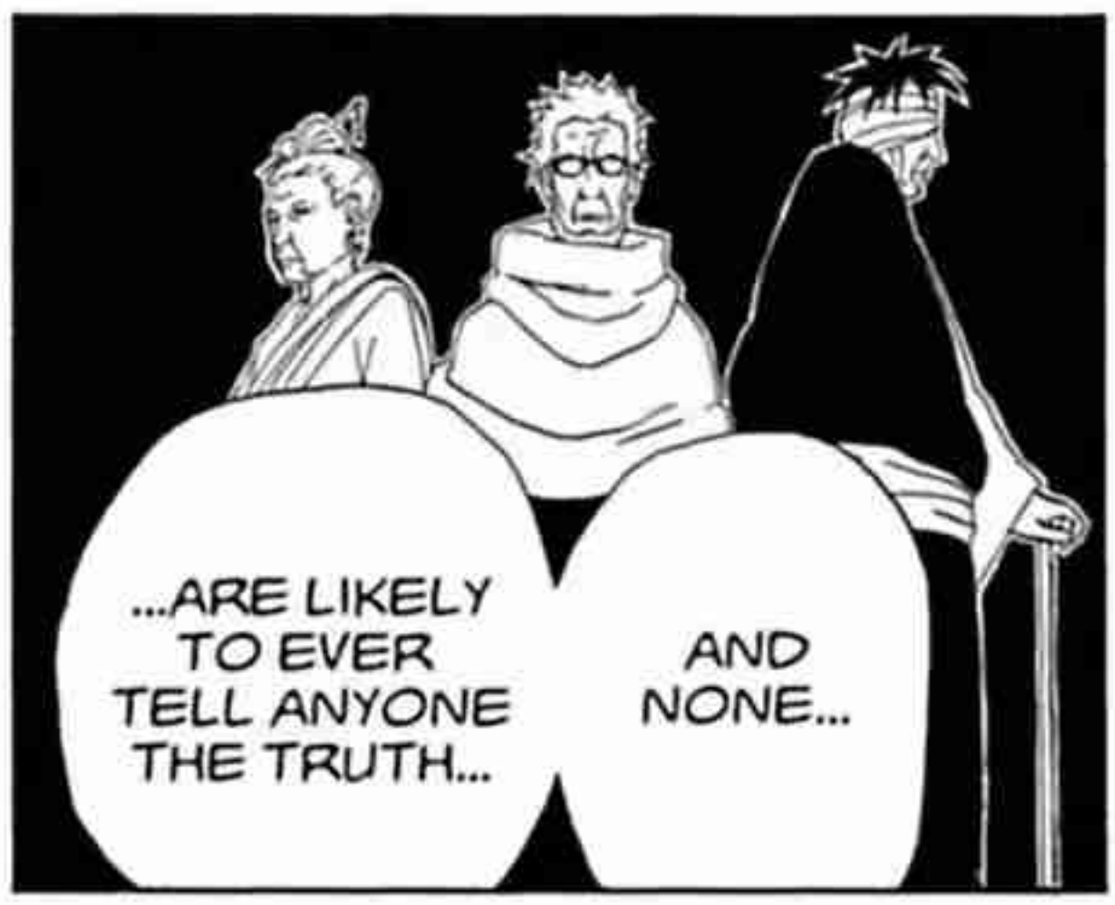
...


LISTEN TO MY TALE AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND...

...NEVER WANTED US TO MEET, TO TALK...
IT'S BECAUSE ITACHI...

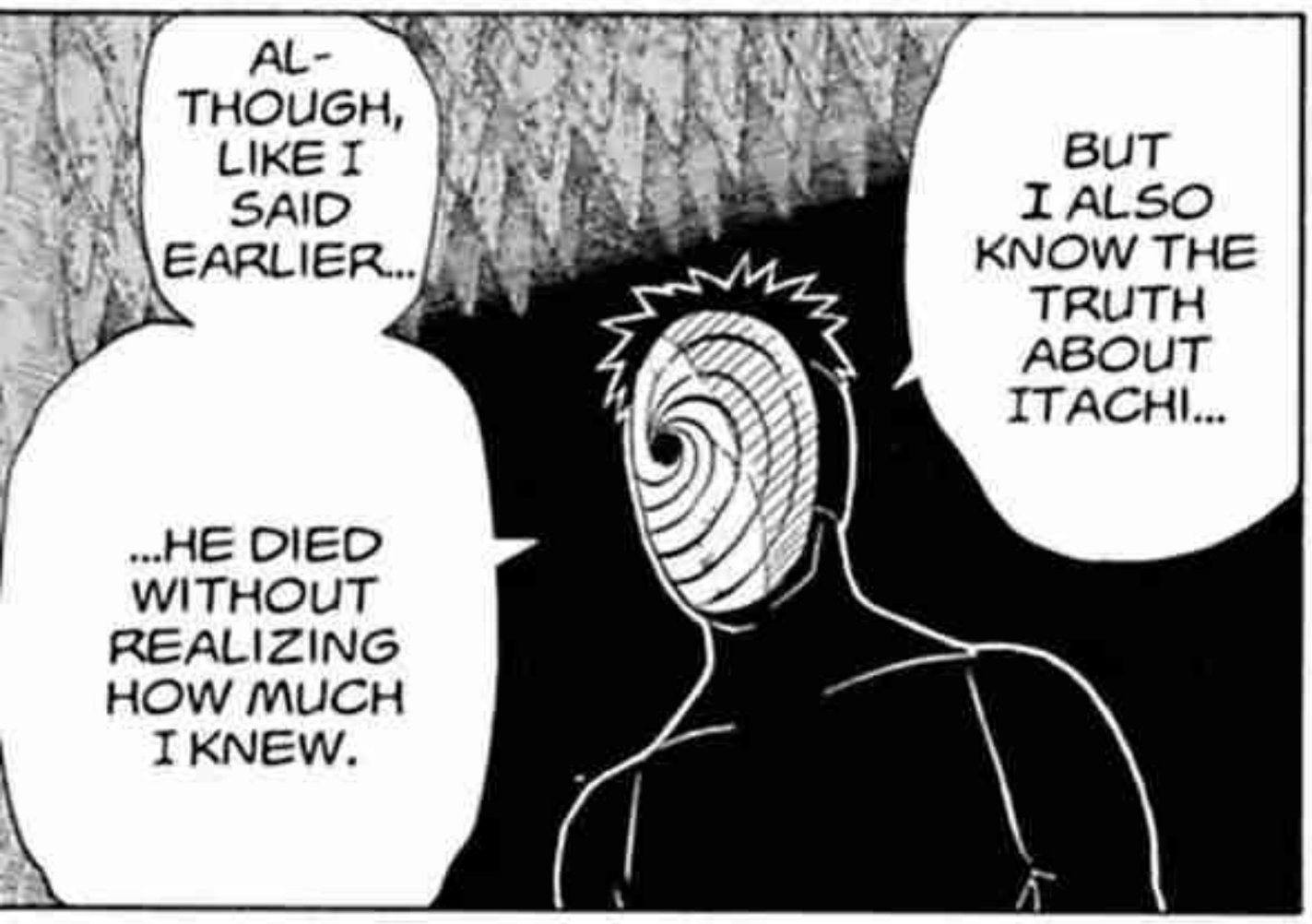
...AND THE TWO COUNSELORS HOMURA AND KOHARU KNEW THE REAL TRUTH.
ONLY DANZO, THE THIRD HOKAGE...

...

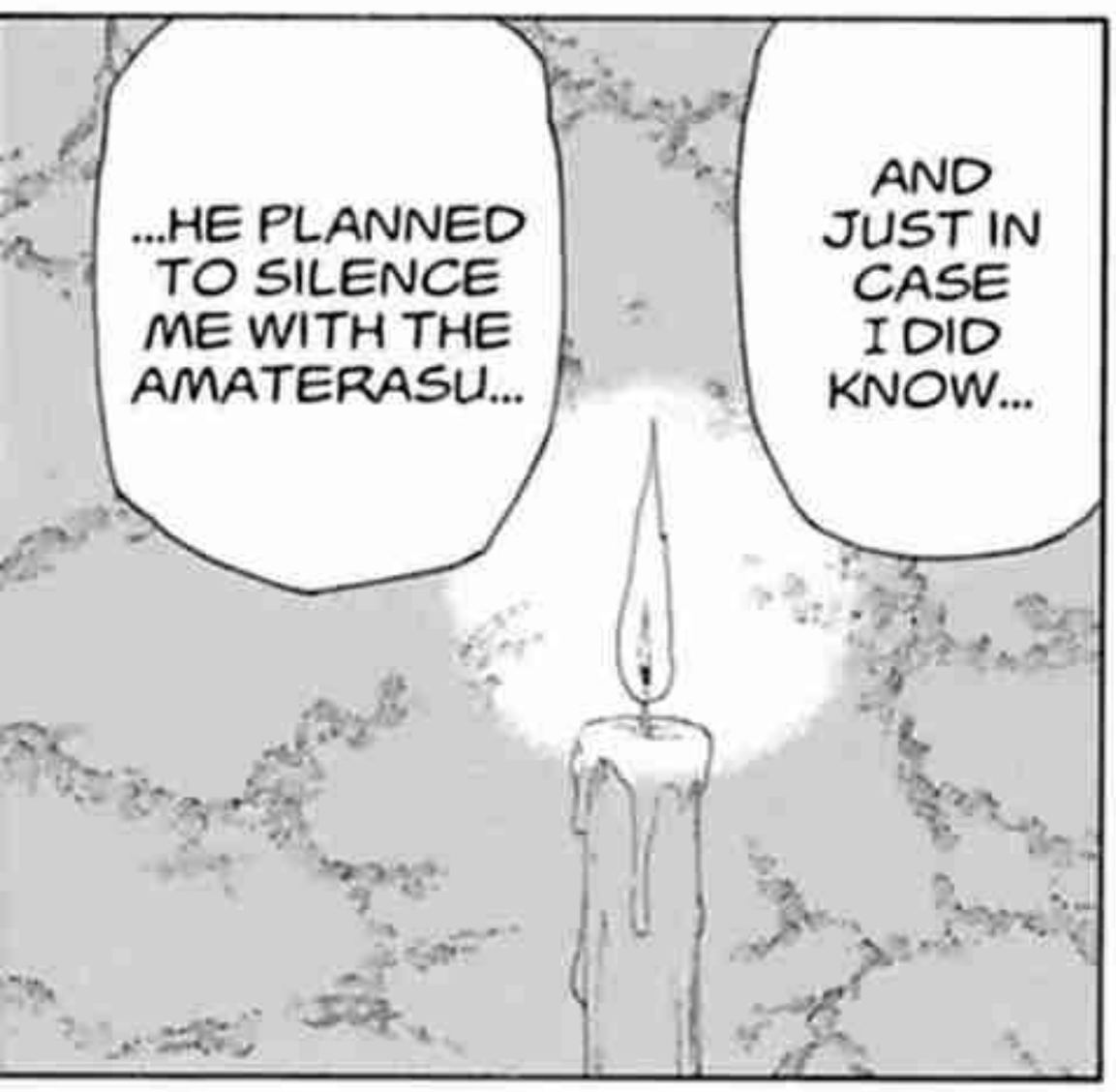

...ARE LIKELY TO EVER TELL ANYONE THE TRUTH...
AND NONE...

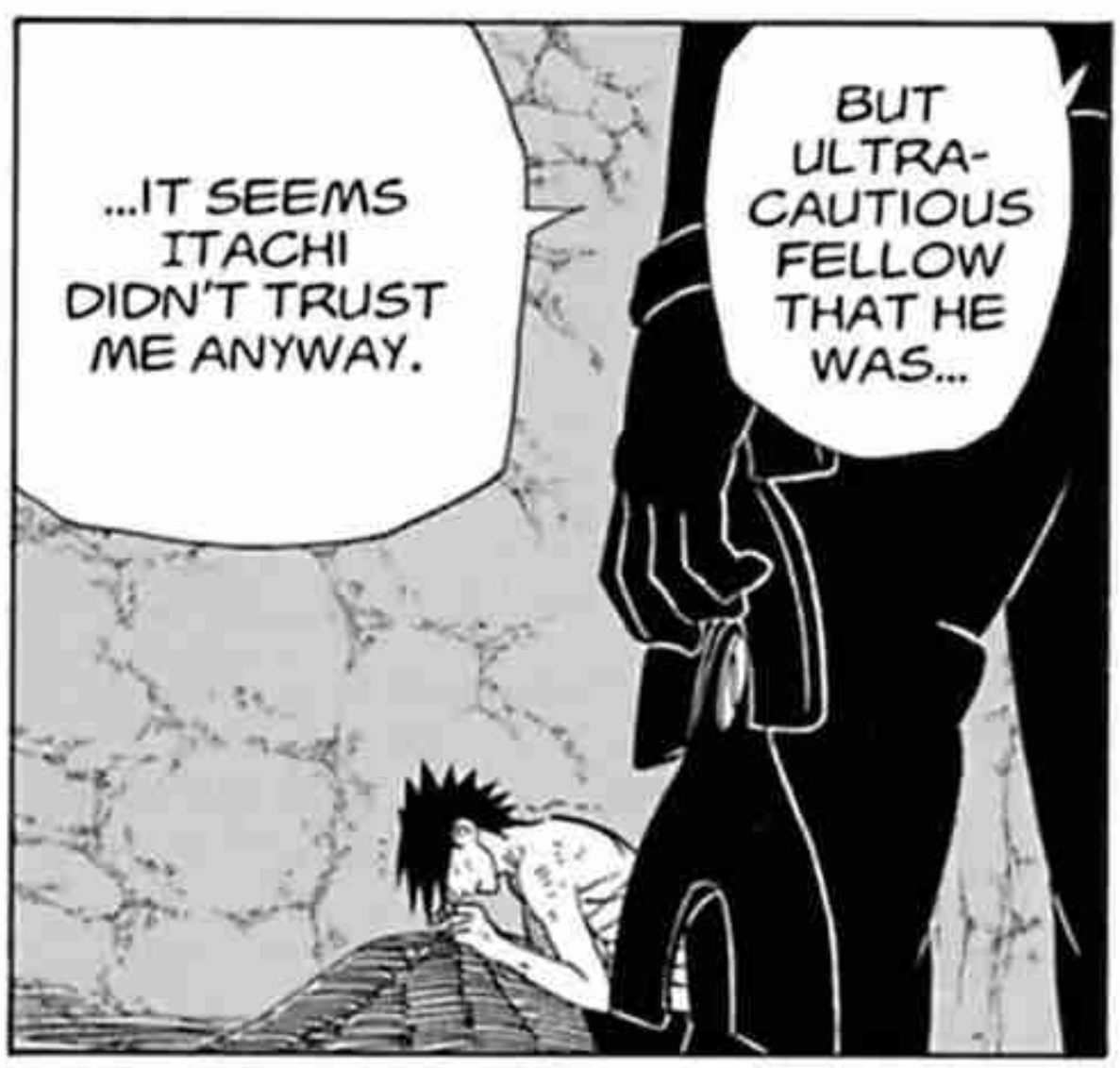
...ONLY THREE ELDERS ARE LEFT WHO KNOW THE SECRET...
WITH THE THIRD HOKAGE DEAD...

WHICH IS WHAT ITACHI HIMSELF DESIRED.
SO ITACHI'S ACTUAL MISSION WILL DISAP-PEAR INTO ETERNAL OBSCURITY.


AL-THOUGH, LIKE I SAID EARLIER...
...HE DIED WITHOUT REALIZING HOW MUCH I KNEW.
BUT I ALSO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ITACHI...

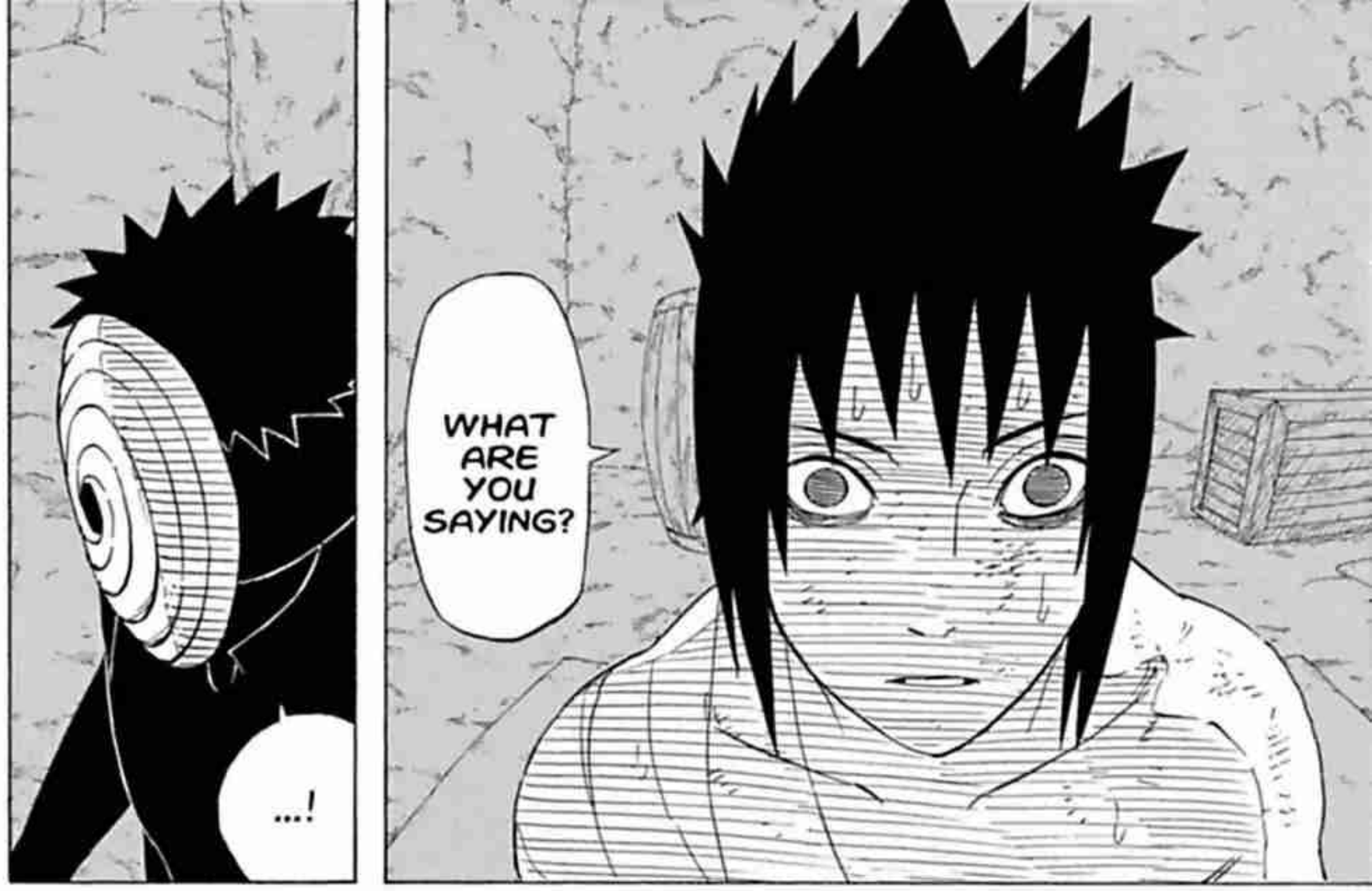
...

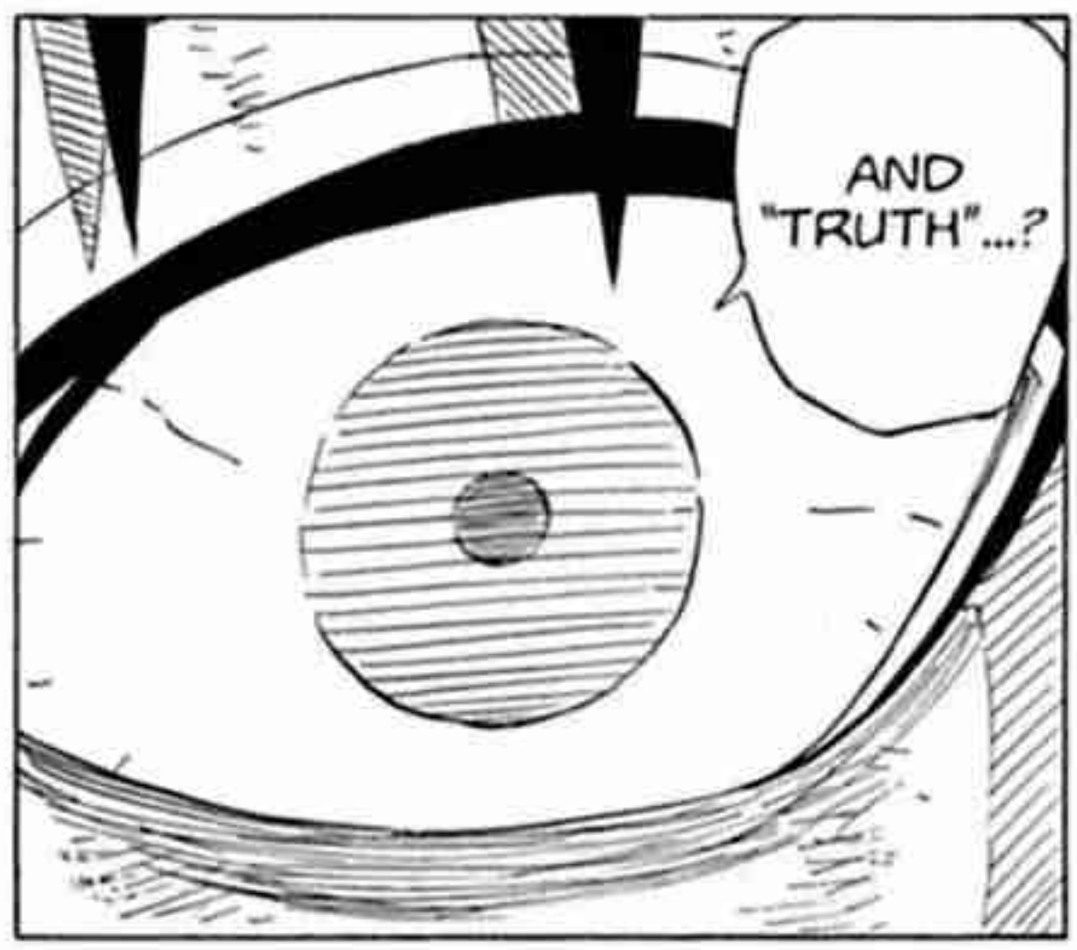

...HE PLANNED TO SILENCE ME WITH THE AMATERASU...
AND JUST IN CASE I DID KNOW...


...IT SEEMS ITACHI DIDN'T TRUST ME ANYWAY.
BUT ULTRA-CAUTIOUS FELLOW THAT HE WAS...

WHAT... ARE YOU SAYING ?

...WOULD SHOW YOU MY SHARINGAN IN ORDER TO GET YOU TO TRUST ME.
...ANTICI-PATING THAT I...


...!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?


AND "TRUTH"...?

...."PRO-TECT" ...???
PROTECT ME...?

SHUP

THINK BACK AND REMEMBER ITACHI.

TICK

...RECALL IT.

YOUR KIND AND GENTLE OLDER BROTHER...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

BUT... HE TRIED TO KILL ME...!

HACK!
COUGH !!
TMP

TRIED TO STEAL MY EYES...!

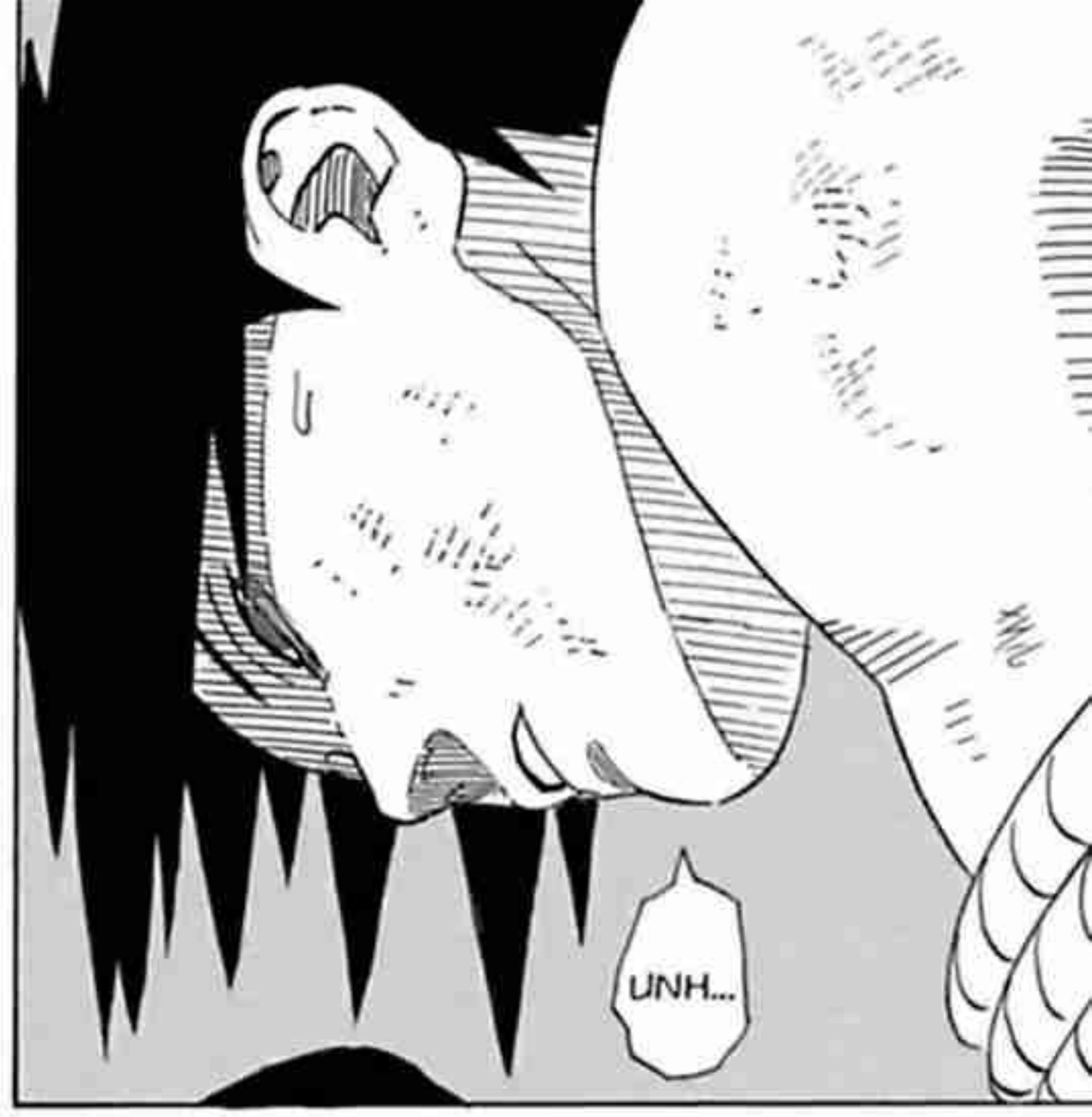
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
THWAP

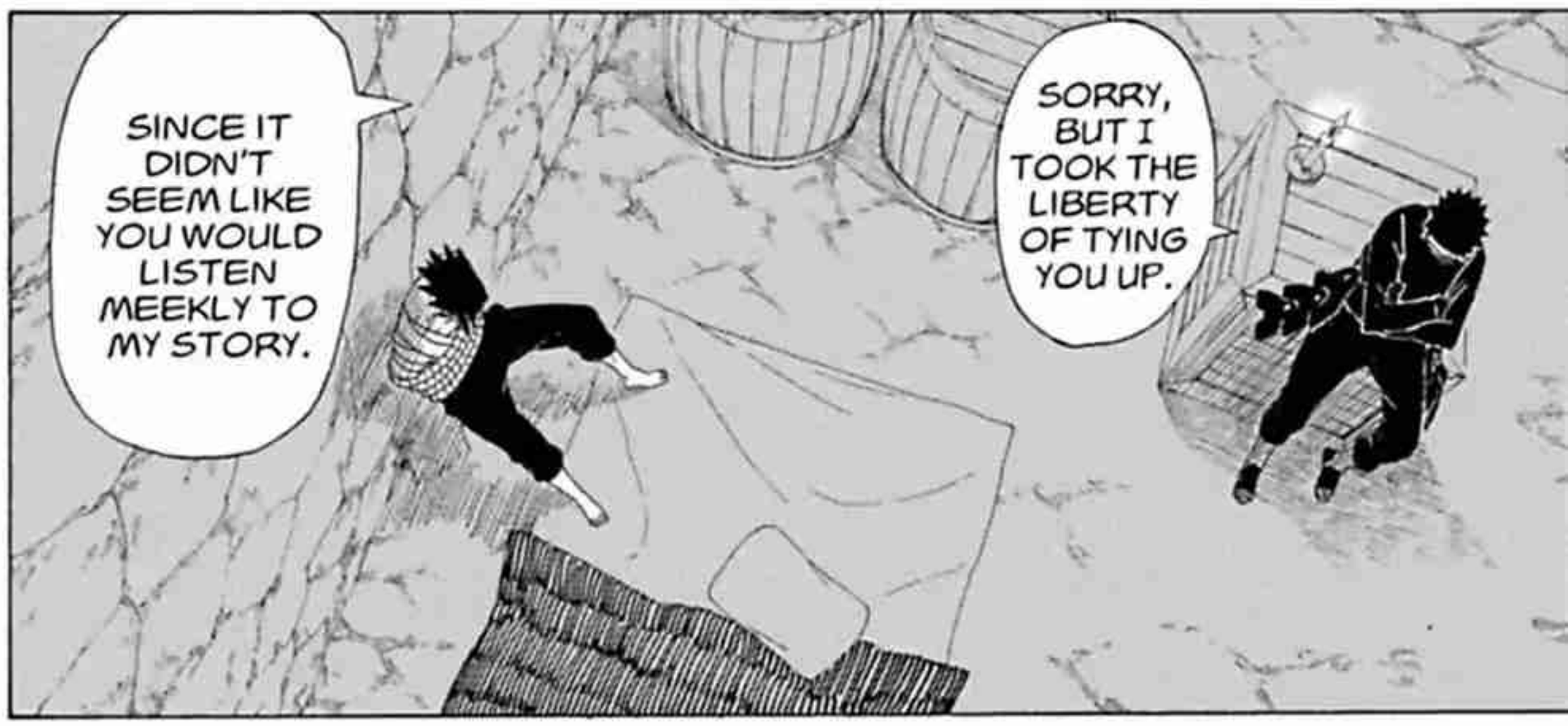
CALM DOWN...
TAKE SLOW, DEEP BREATHS.
SHUCK

UGH...
BWUUMF

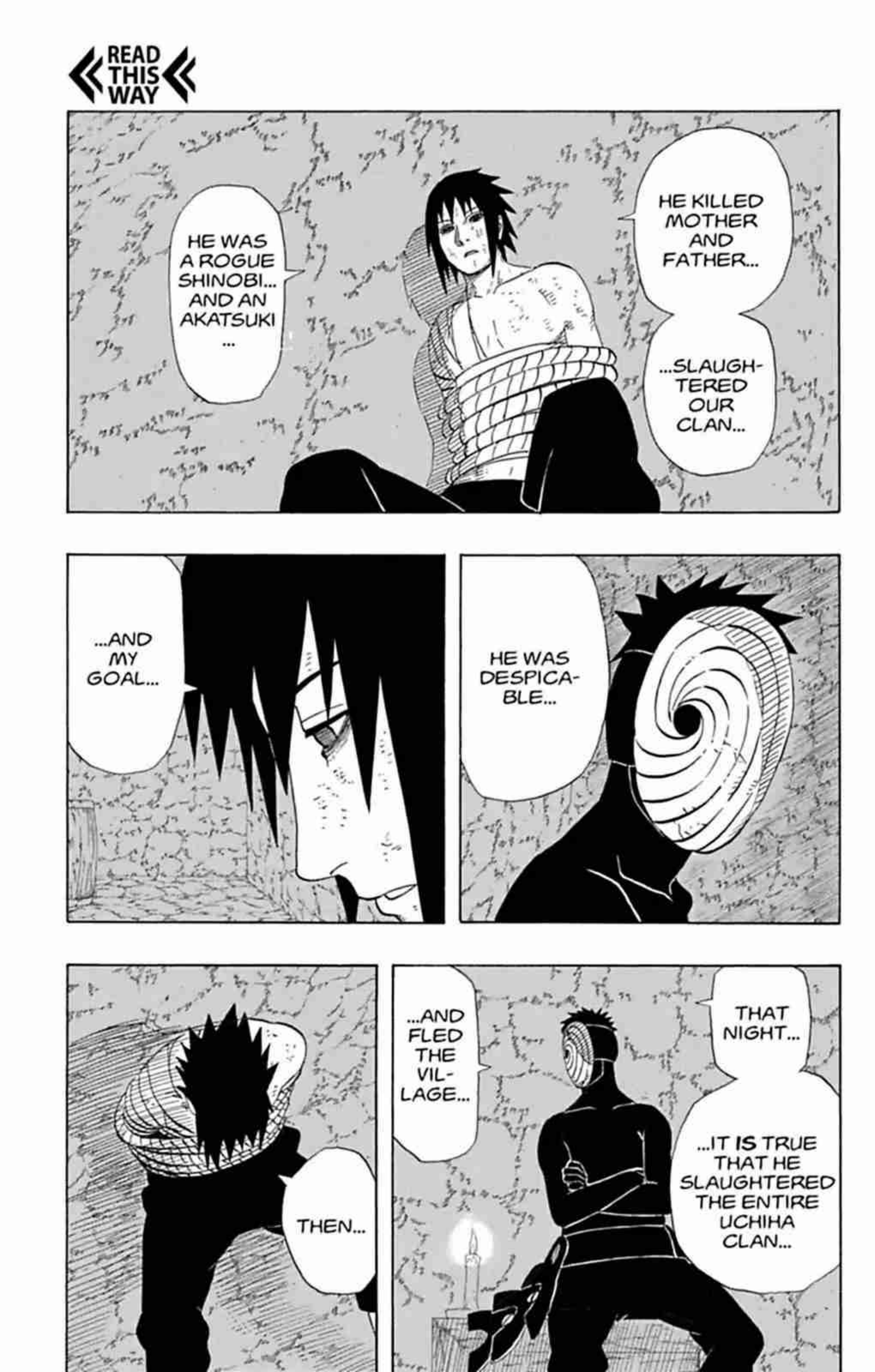
HUF
HUF

AWAKE AGAIN...?

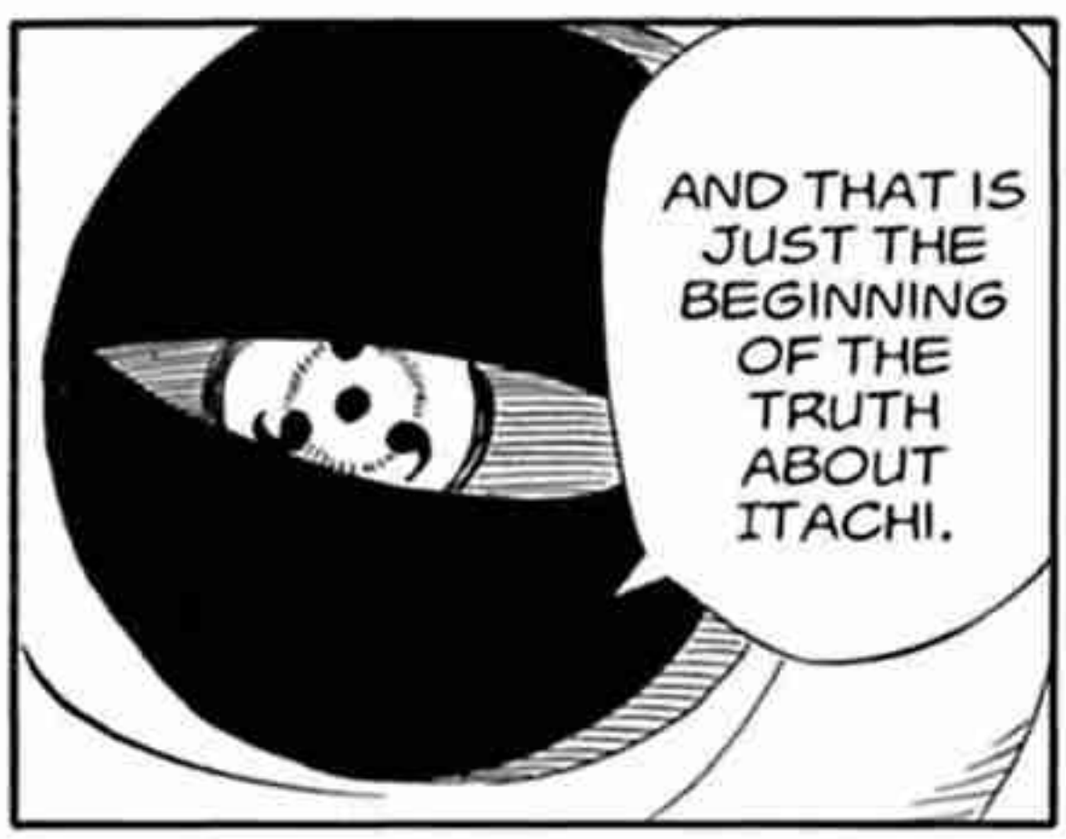

UNH...


SINCE IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU WOULD LISTEN MEEKLY TO MY STORY.
SORRY, BUT I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF TYING YOU UP.

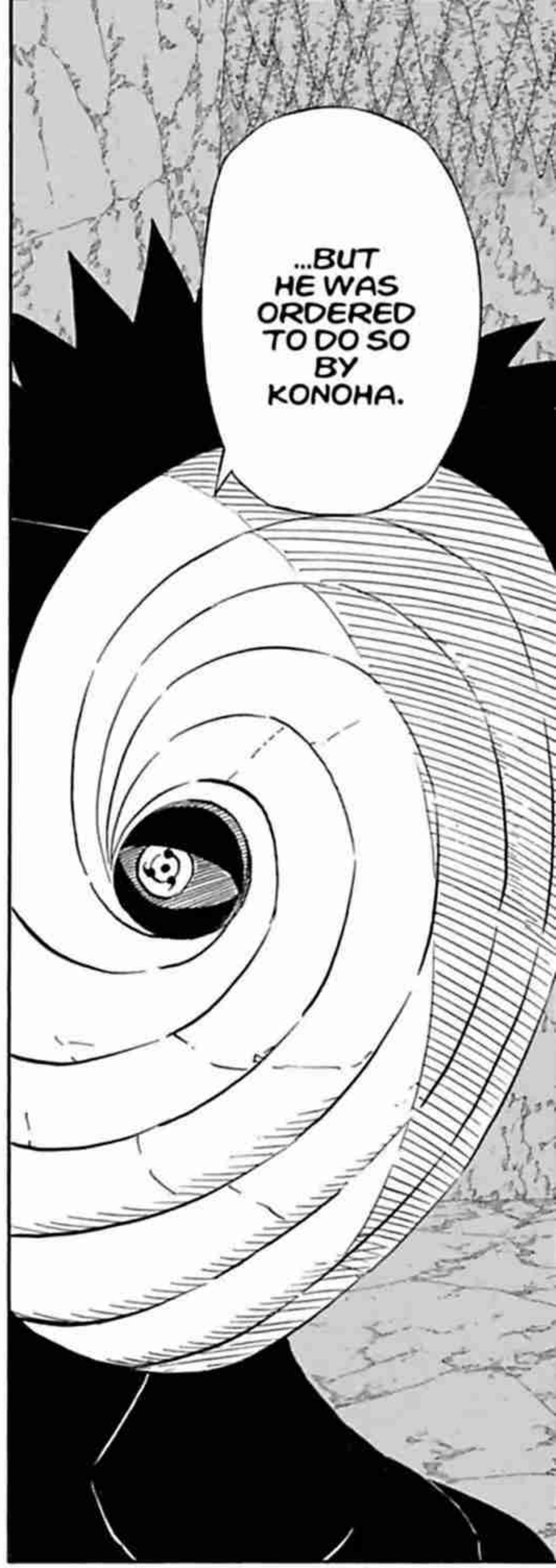
...ITACHI WAS THE ENEMY...
...HE...


READ THIS WAY
HE WAS A ROGUE SHINOBI... AND AN AKATSUKI ...
HE KILLED MOTHER AND FATHER...
...SLAUGHTERED OUR CLAN...
...AND MY GOAL...
HE WAS DESPICABLE...
THEN...
...AND FLED THE VILLAGE...
THAT NIGHT...
...IT IS TRUE THAT HE SLAUGHTERED THE ENTIRE UCHIHA CLAN...

...!


AND THAT IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE TRUTH ABOUT ITACHI.

...A MIS-SION...
...YOU SAID?

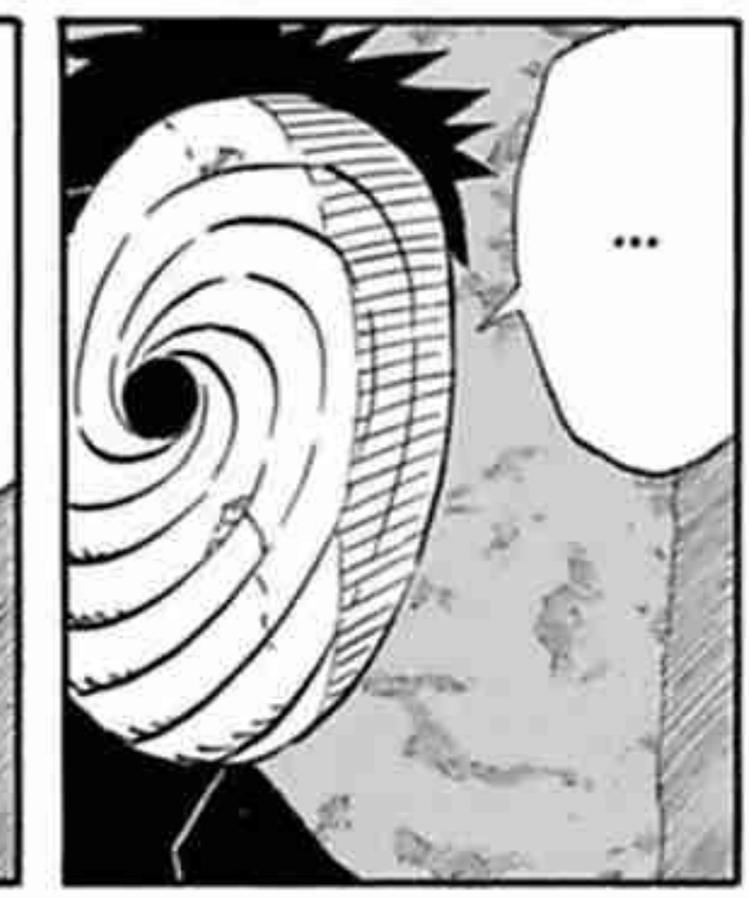

...BUT HE WAS ORDERED TO DO SO BY KONOHA.

...

THAT'S RIGHT. ITACHI COMPLETED HIS ASSIGNMENT THAT NIGHT...
...BY SLAUGHTERING EVERYONE.

BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND?!

YOU SEEM CALMER NOW.


...

?

...I MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.
IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN ITACHI'S STORY...

A PROBLEM THAT HARKS BACK TO THE VERY ORIGINS OF THE FOUNDING OF KONOHA-GAKURE.

THIS DETERMINED THE PATH OF ITACHI'S LIFE.

ITACHI ENDED UP BEING A SACRIFICIAL PAWN...

...IN A LONG-STANDING POWER STRUGGLE...

YOU'RE UNTRUST-WORTHY.

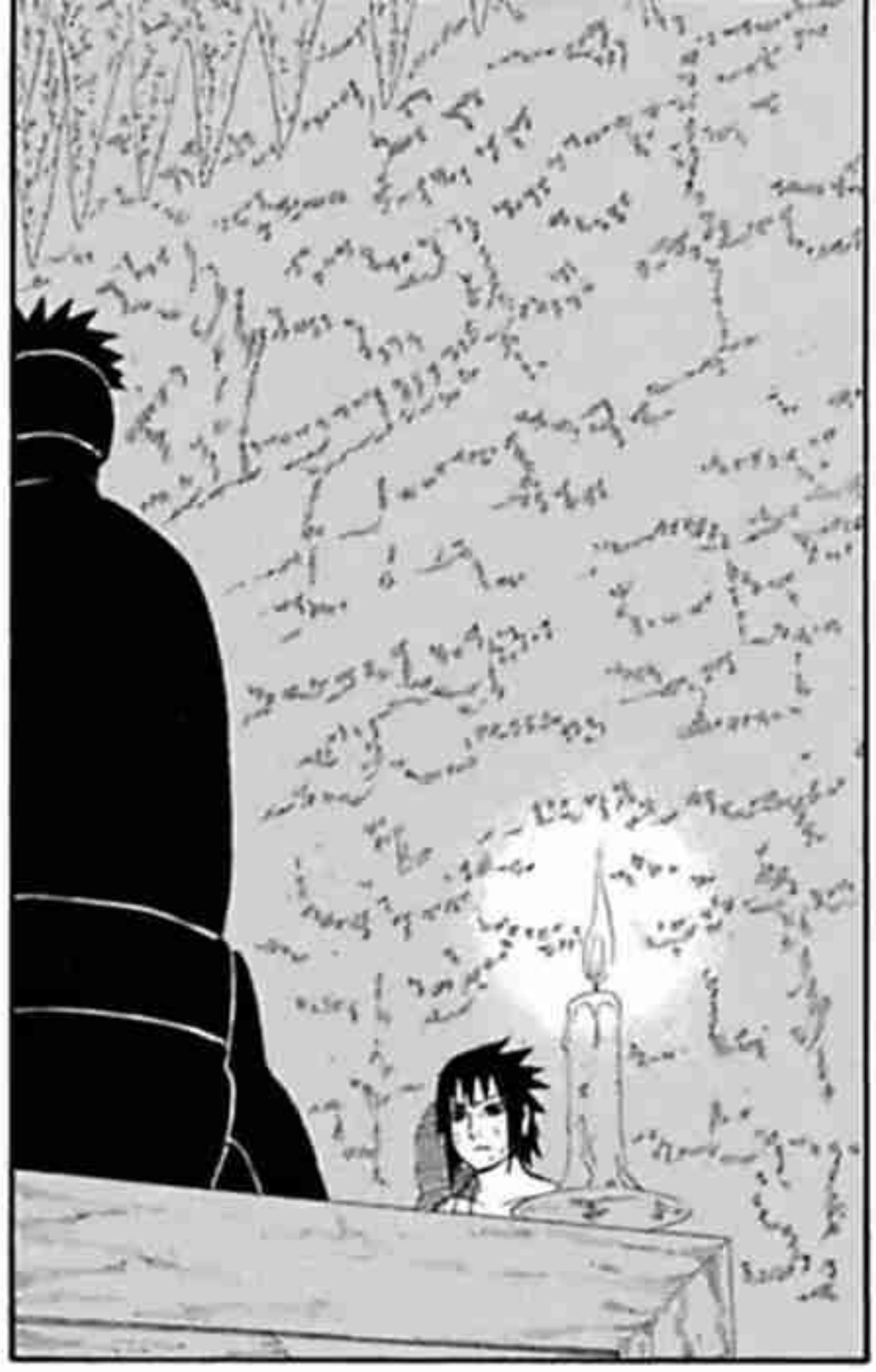
ON WHAT GROUNDS SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?

...AFTER YOU LISTEN TO THE ENTIRE STORY.

SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU BELIEVE MY TALE OR NOT.

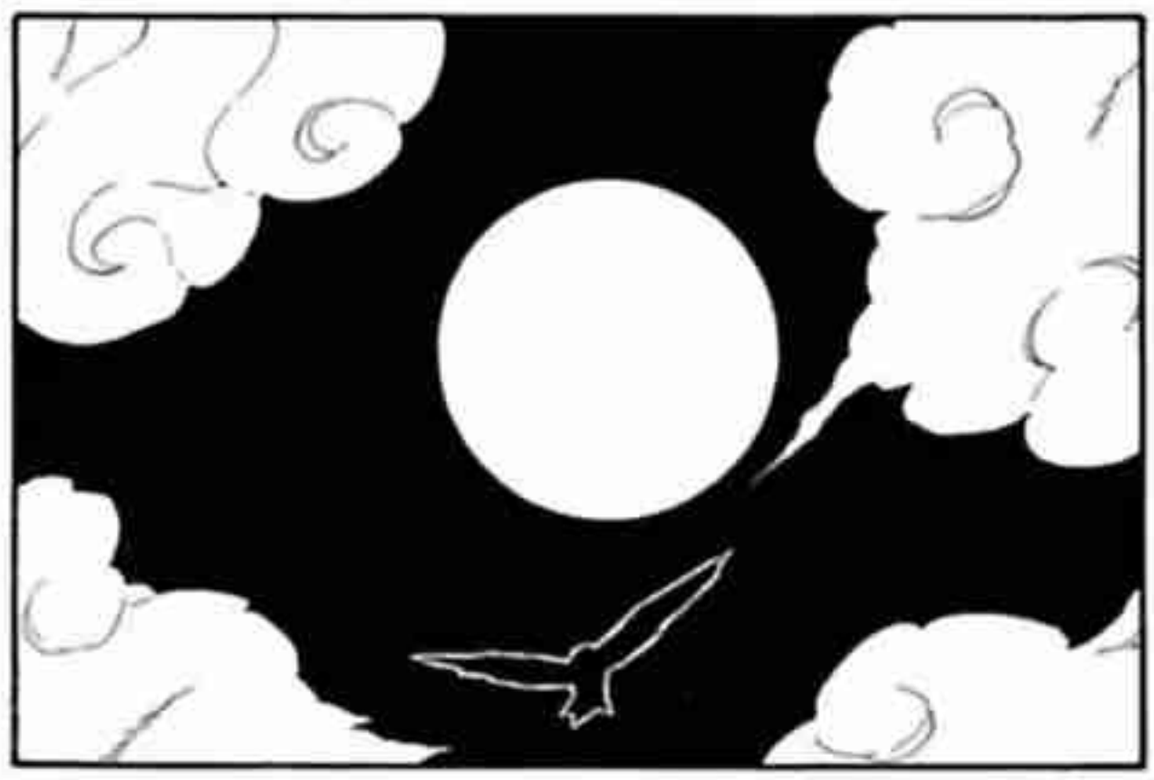
I DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE I CAN SHOW YOU.

...

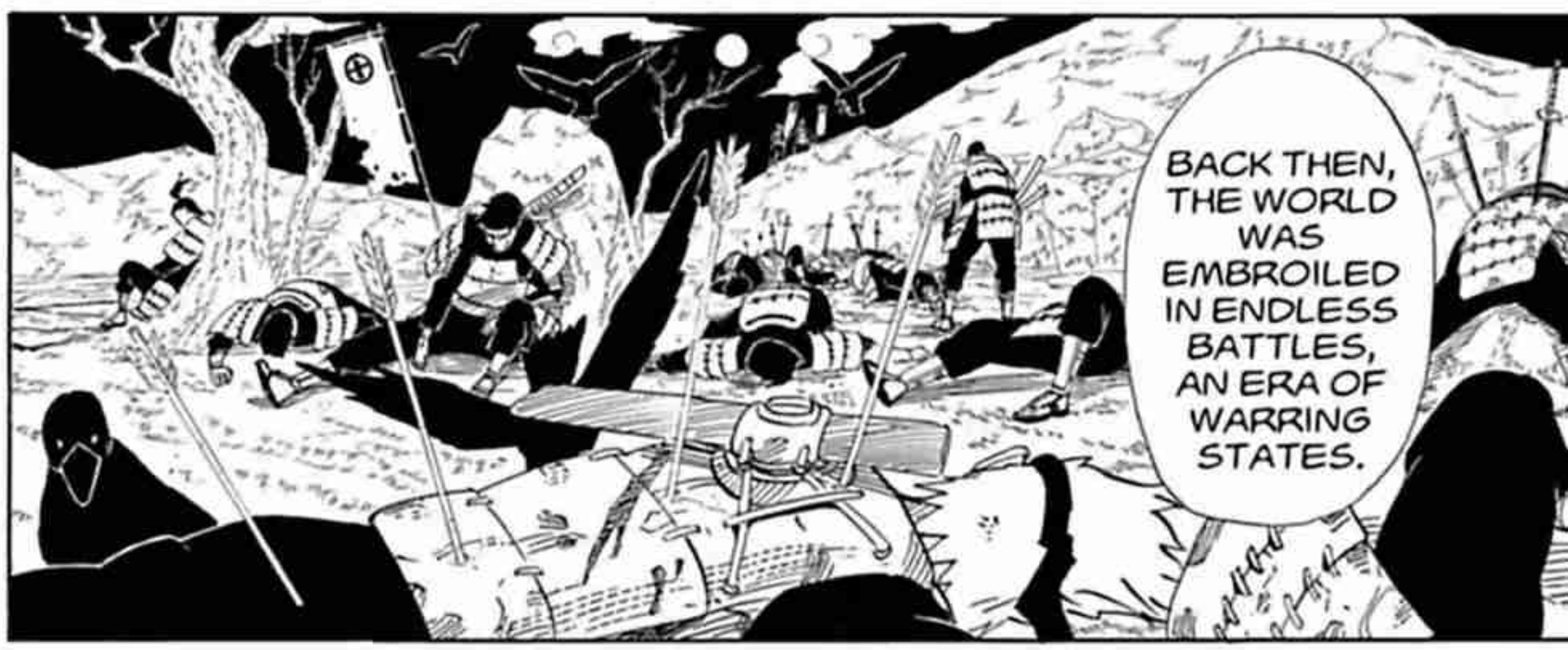


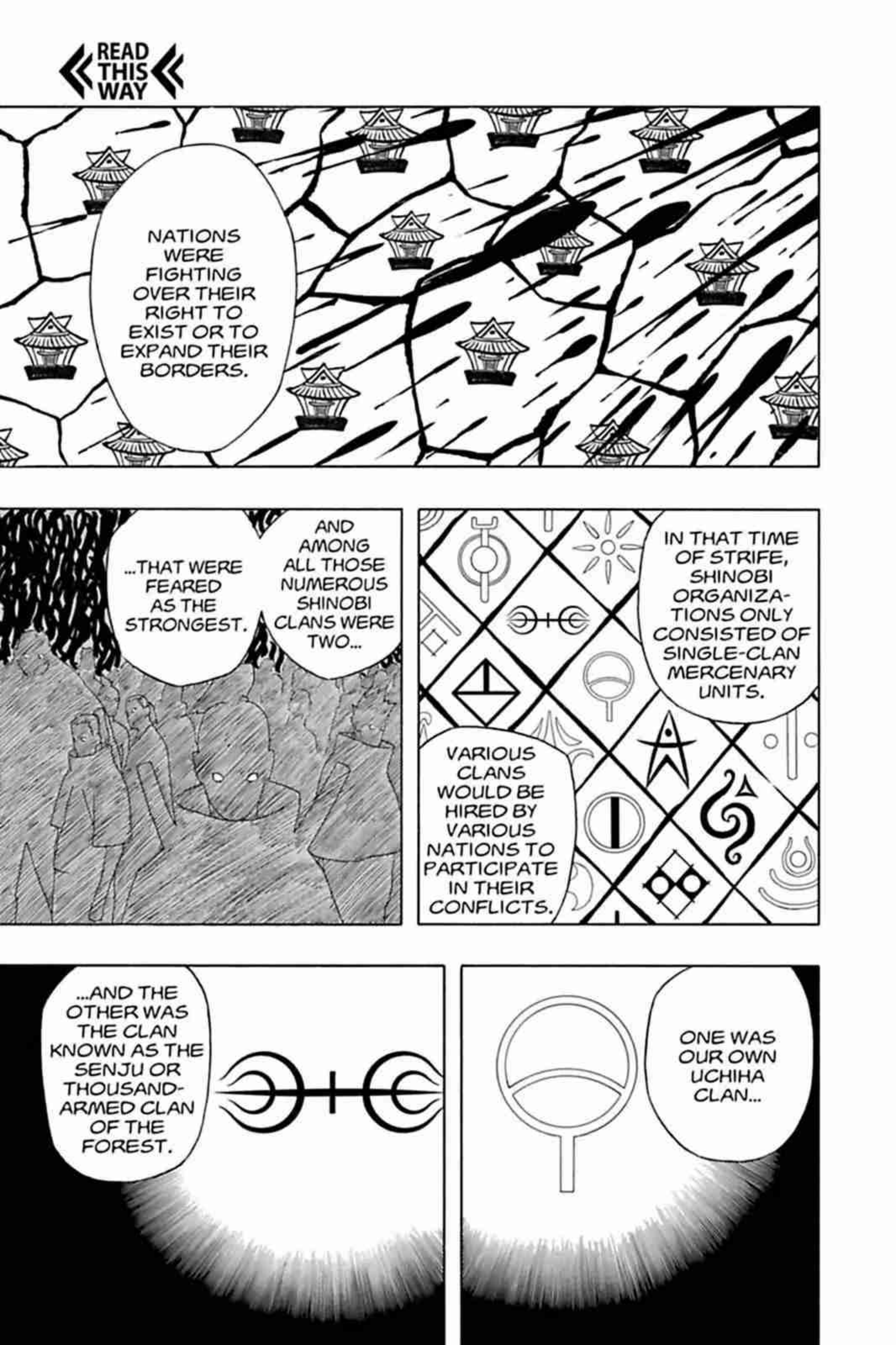
FINE...
TALK.

HEH...



IT ALL STARTED MORE THAN 80 YEARS AGO.


BACK THEN, THE WORLD WAS EMBROILED IN ENDLESS BATTLES, AN ERA OF WARRING STATES.


READ THIS WAY
NATIONS WERE FIGHTING OVER THEIR RIGHT TO EXIST OR TO EXPAND THEIR BORDERS.
...THAT WERE FEARED AS THE STRONGEST.
AND AMONG ALL THOSE NUMEROUS SHINOBI CLANS WERE TWO...
IN THAT TIME OF STRIFE, SHINOBI ORGANIZATIONS ONLY CONSISTED OF SINGLE-CLAN MERCENARY UNITS.
VARIOUS CLANS WOULD BE HIRED BY VARIOUS NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR CONFLICTS.
...AND THE OTHER WAS THE CLAN KNOWN AS THE SENJU OR THOUSAND-ARMED CLAN OF THE FOREST.
ONE WAS OUR OWN UCHIHA CLAN...

EXCELLING IN ALL TYPES OF WARFARE, WE BECAME KNOWN AS A BATTLE CLAN.

WE OF UCHIHA POSSESSED EXCEPTIONAL CHAKRA AND THE SHARINGAN.

YOU COULD SAY THAT ME SURVIVING THIS LONG IS PROOF OF THAT.

AND THEN I WAS BORN...

...POS-SESSING PARTICU-LARLY POWERFUL CHAKRA... EVEN FOR AN UCHIHA.

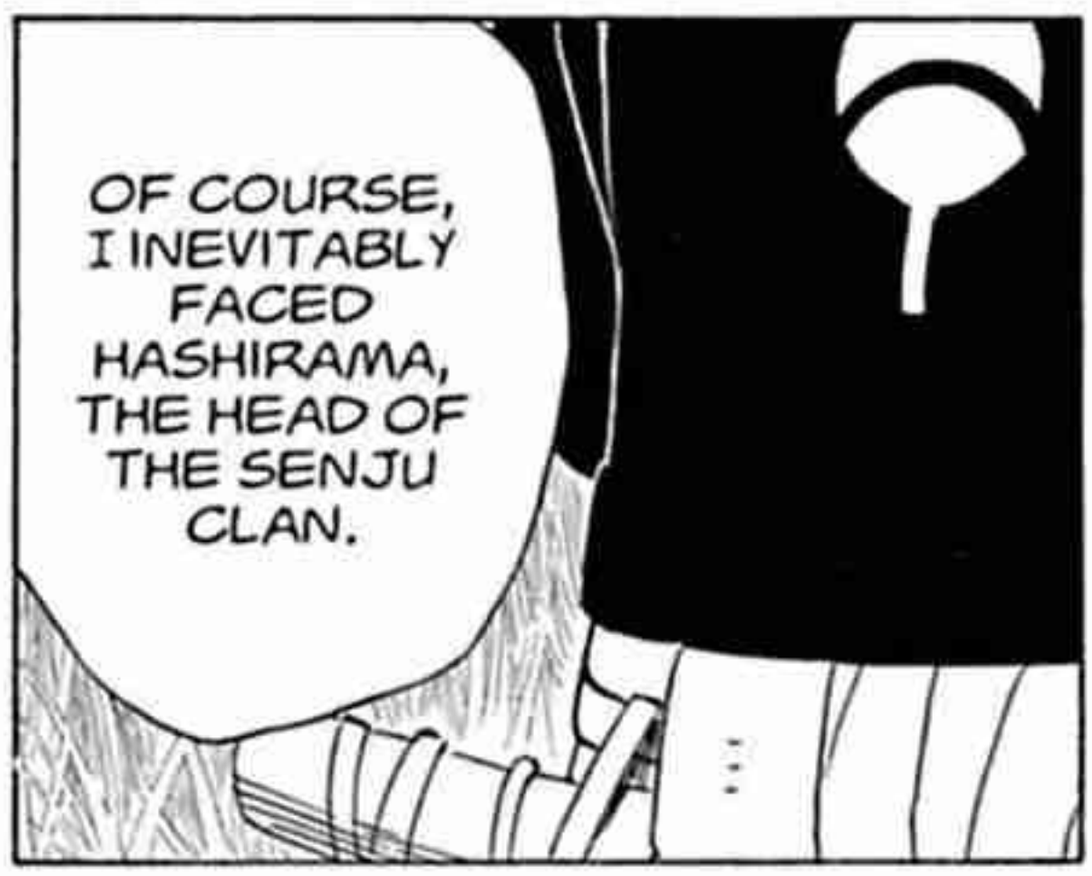
IN AN ERA WHERE POWER WAS EVERYTHING...

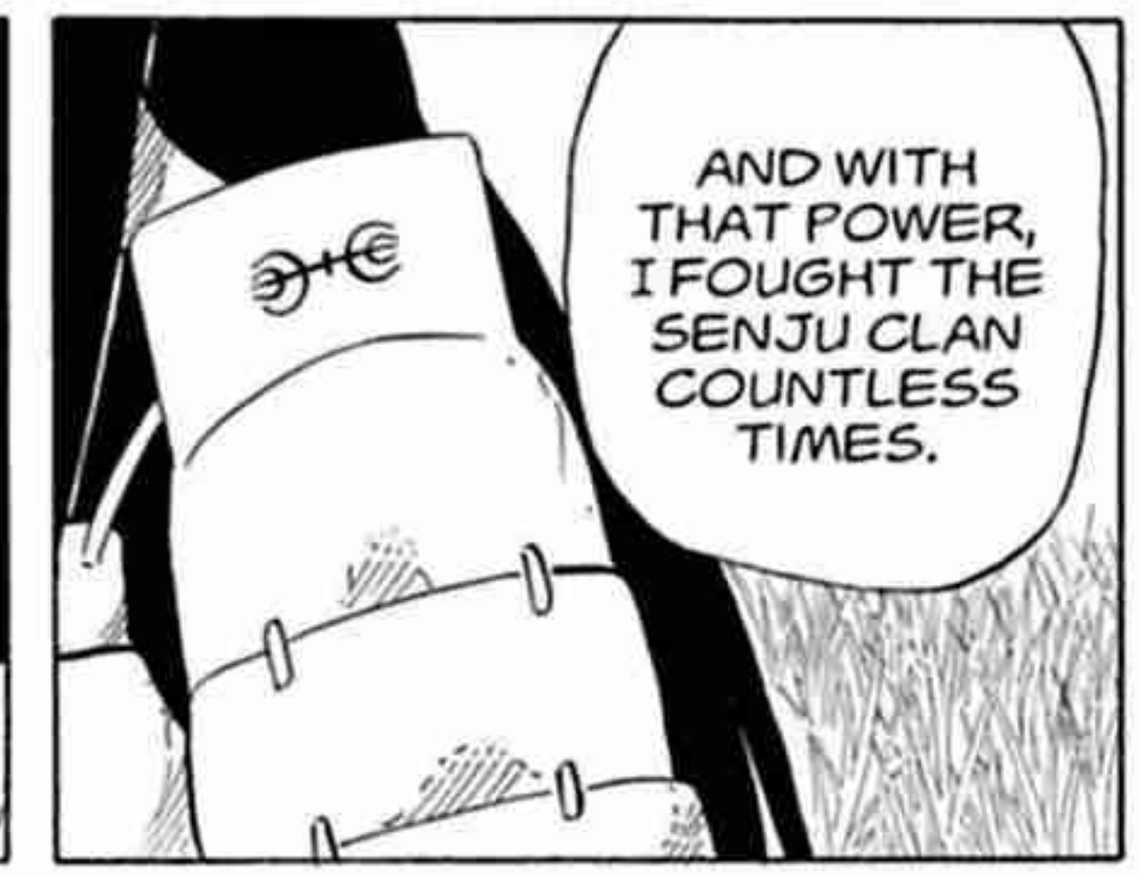
...AND AT THE COST OF MY FRIENDS AND YOUNGER BROTHER, I CONTINUOUSLY SOUGHT EVER MORE POWER.

BACK THEN, I SPENT EVERY DAY ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

BUT THANKS TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO FULLY AWAKEN THE MANGEKYO SHARINGAN...
...AND BECOME UCHIHA'S LEADER.

YOU...
...

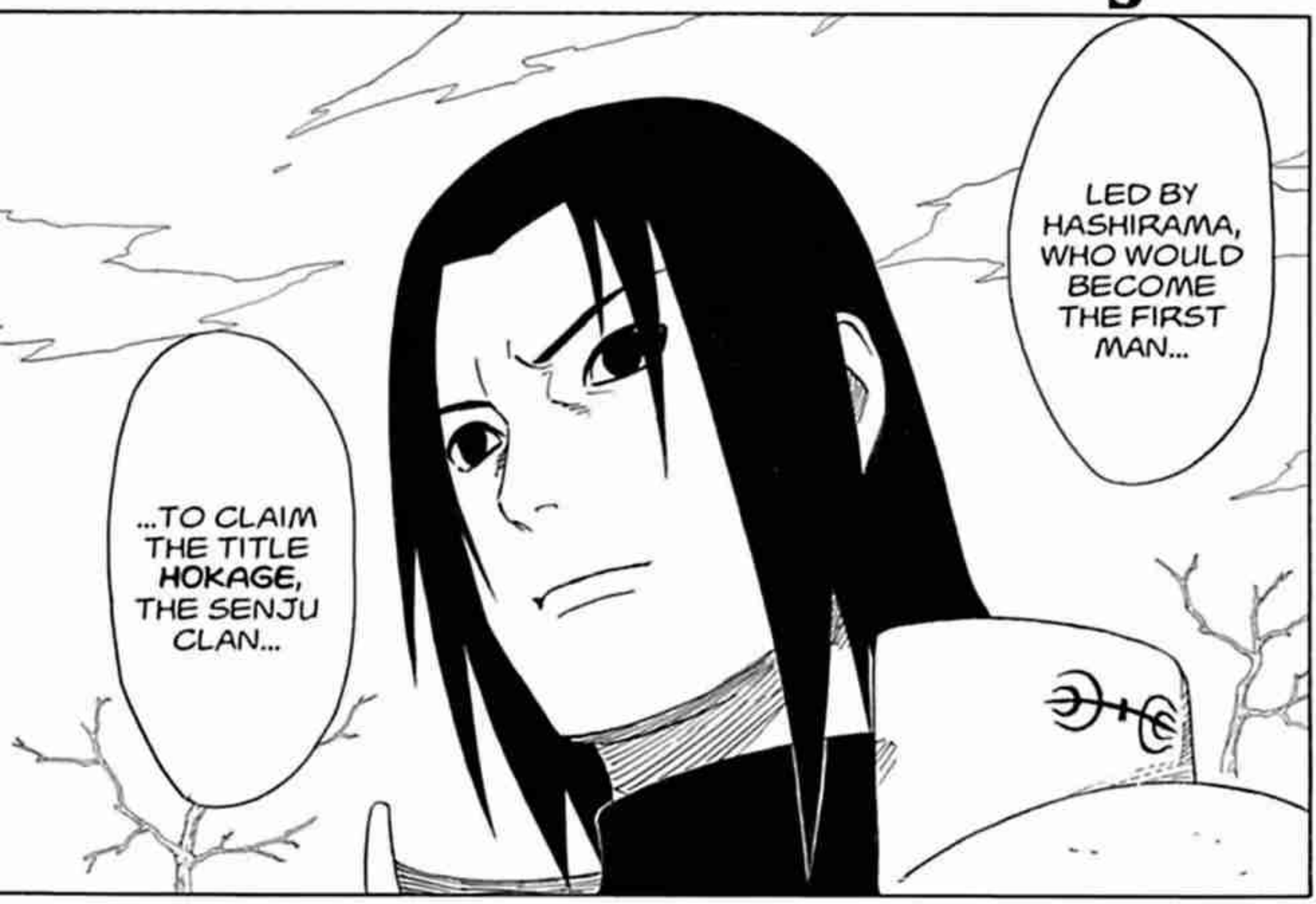

OF COURSE, I INEVITABLY FACED HASHIRAMA, THE HEAD OF THE SENJU CLAN.
...


AND WITH THAT POWER, I FOUGHT THE SENJU CLAN COUNTLESS TIMES.

THE SHINOBI WHO STOOD AT THE TOP OF THE NINJA WORLD AND THE PERSON I RESPECTED MOST.
SENJU "WOOD STYLE" HASHIRAMA, THE FUTURE FIRST HOKAGE.

NARUTO

Number 399: How It All Begins!!



WHENEVER SENJU MADE A MOVE, UCHIHA MOVED AS WELL.

IF A NATION HIRED SENJU, THEIR OPPONENT WOULD HIRE UCHIHA... WE ENDED UP BEING LIKE RIVALS.

FOR OUR CLAN WAS PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD TAKE THEM ON.

MEA-SURE ONE'S CAPAC-ITY.

IN ORDER TO APPROACH THE ULTIMATE SHINOBI.

THE MORE I WENT UP AGAINST HASHIRA-MA...

...THE MORE MY NAME BECAME KNOWN AS WELL.

...BUT IT WAS TO OBTAIN THE STRENGTH NECESSARY TO PROTECT MY CLAN.
...I DID STEAL THEM...

YOU STOLE YOUR BROTHER'S EYES...
...MERELY TO HEIGHTEN YOUR REPUTA-TION?!

TO PROTECT YOUR CLAN?

IT WASN'T FOR SELFISH REASONS.

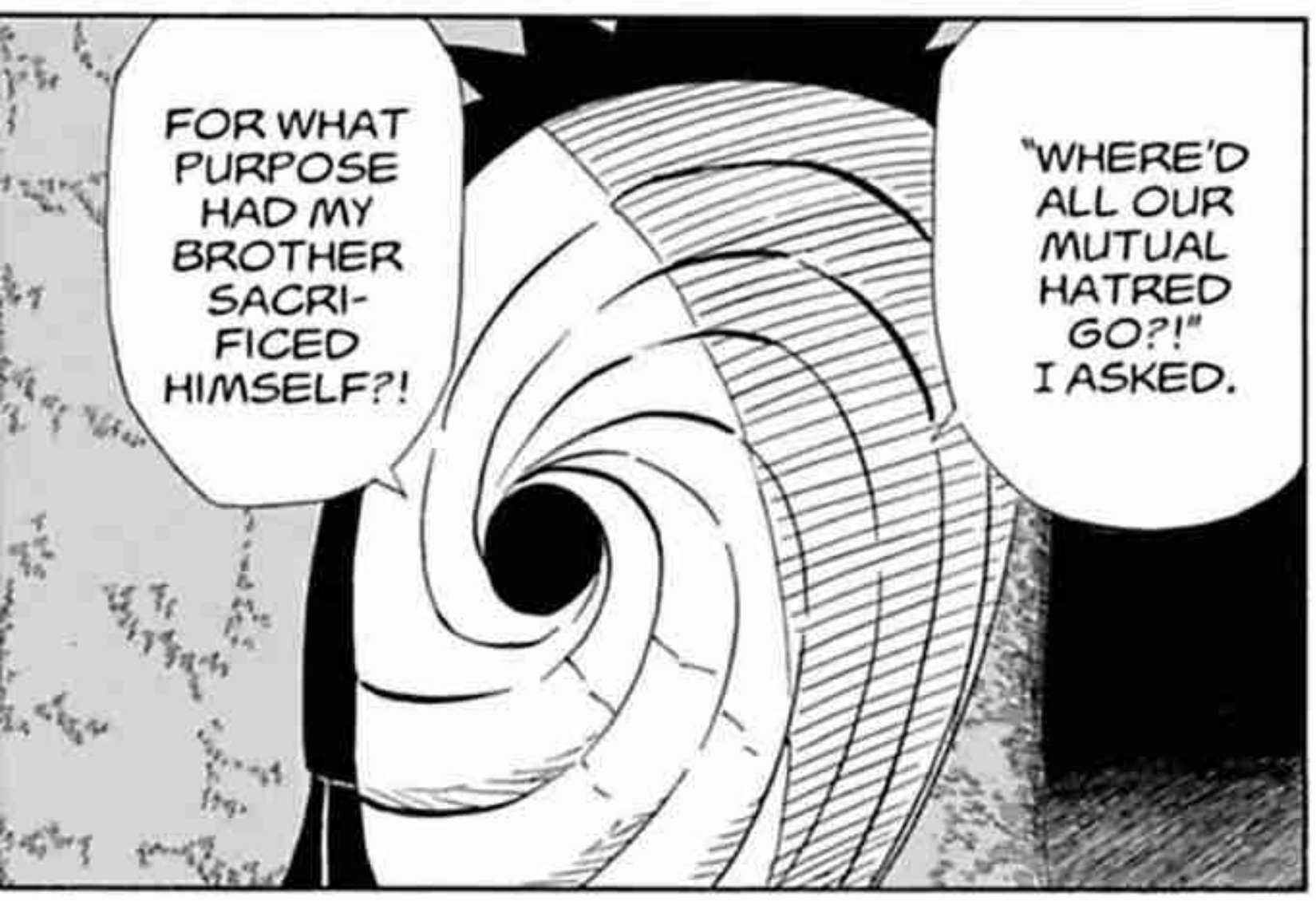
AMIDST FERO-CIOUS BATTLES ...
...IT WAS AN UNAVOIDABLE SACRIFICE TO PROTECT THE CLAN FROM EXTERNAL FOES, STARTING WITH THE SENJU CLAN.
AS UCHIHA'S NAME INCREASED IN PROMI-NENCE SO DID THE NUMBER OF OUR ENEMIES.

AND MY BROTHER WAS FULLY AWARE AND AGREED WITH IT.

IN FACT, HE VOLUNTEERED HIS EYES TO ME.

I WAS THE SOLE DISSENTER TO THE CEASE-FIRE.

THEY'D REACHED THEIR LIMIT.
THE MAJORITY OF FOLKS ON BOTH SIDES WERE TIRED OF THE ENDLESS CONFLICT.

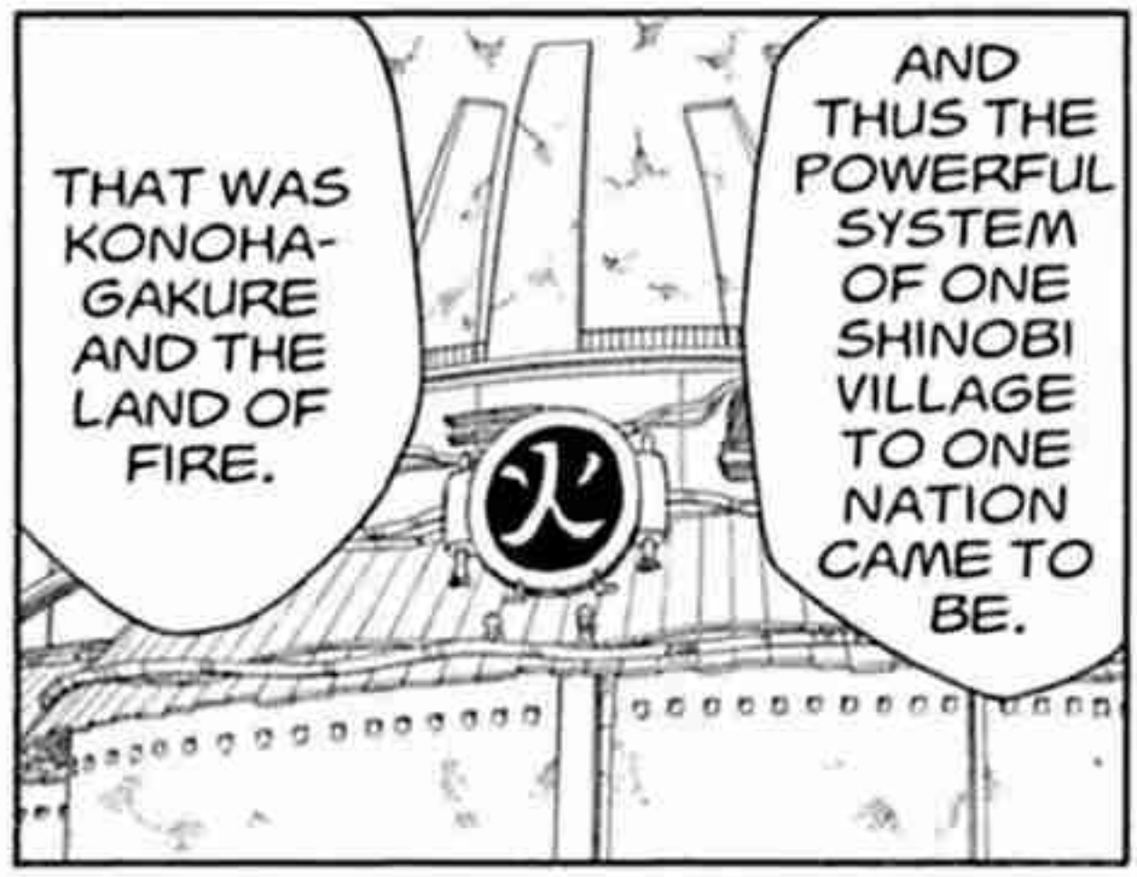

FOR WHAT PURPOSE HAD MY BROTHER SACRI-FICED HIMSELF?!
"WHERE'D ALL OUR MUTUAL HATRED GO?!" I ASKED.

...?

UCHIHA AND SENJU WERE ALWAYS LIKE OIL AND WATER.

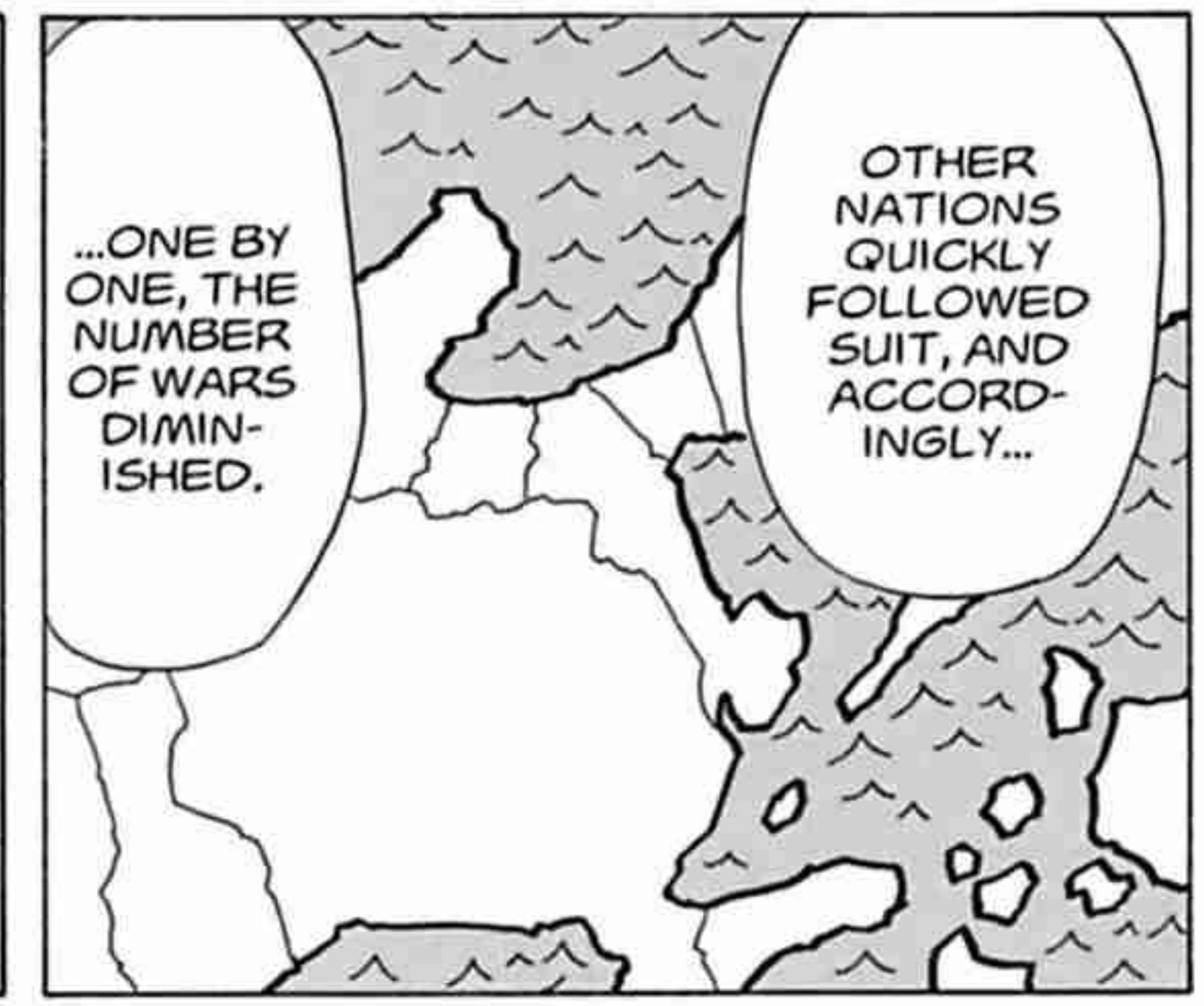
HOWEVER... THE REST OF MY CLAN DESPER-ATELY DESIRED PEACE.
SO AS THEIR COLLECTIVE LEADER, I ACCEDED TO THEIR WILL.

...COME TO BE OP-PRESSED BY THE SENJU CLAN.
I COULDN'T HELP FEARING THAT THE UCHIHA CLAN WOULD ONE DAY...

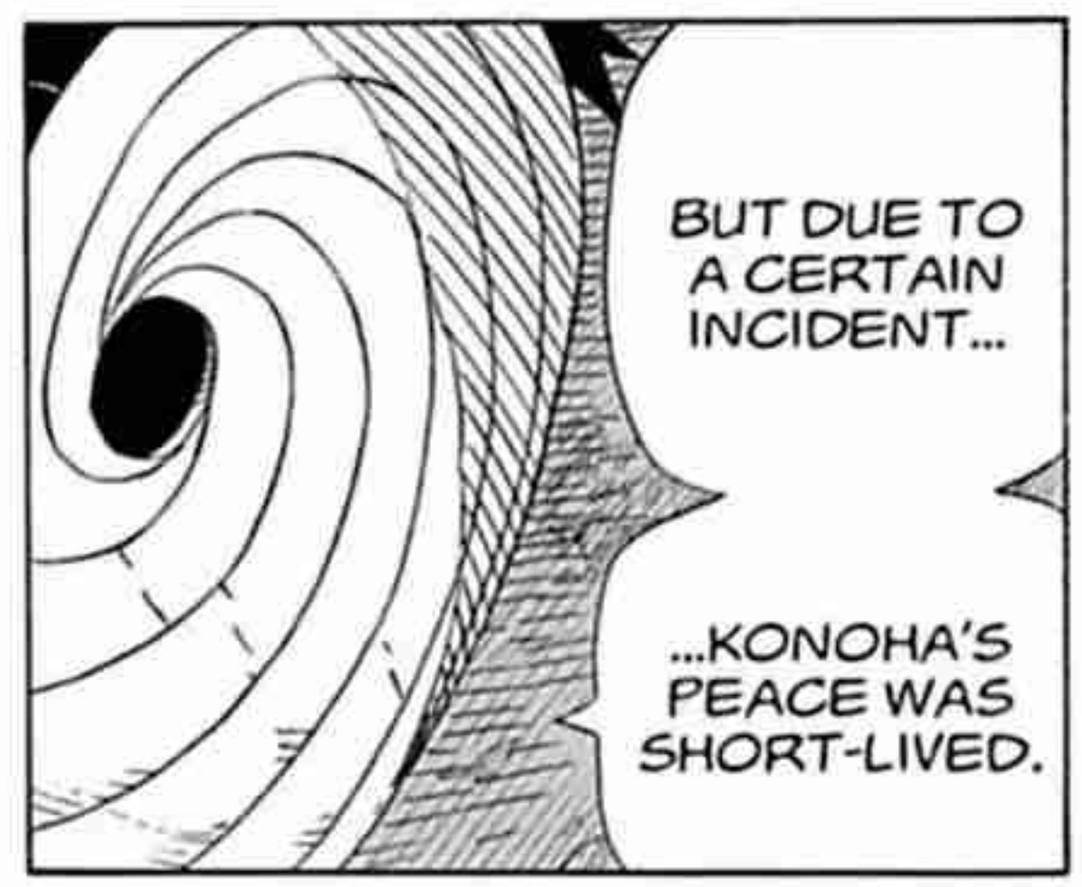

THAT WAS KONOHA-GAKURE AND THE LAND OF FIRE.
AND THUS THE POWERFUL SYSTEM OF ONE SHINOBI VILLAGE TO ONE NATION CAME TO BE.

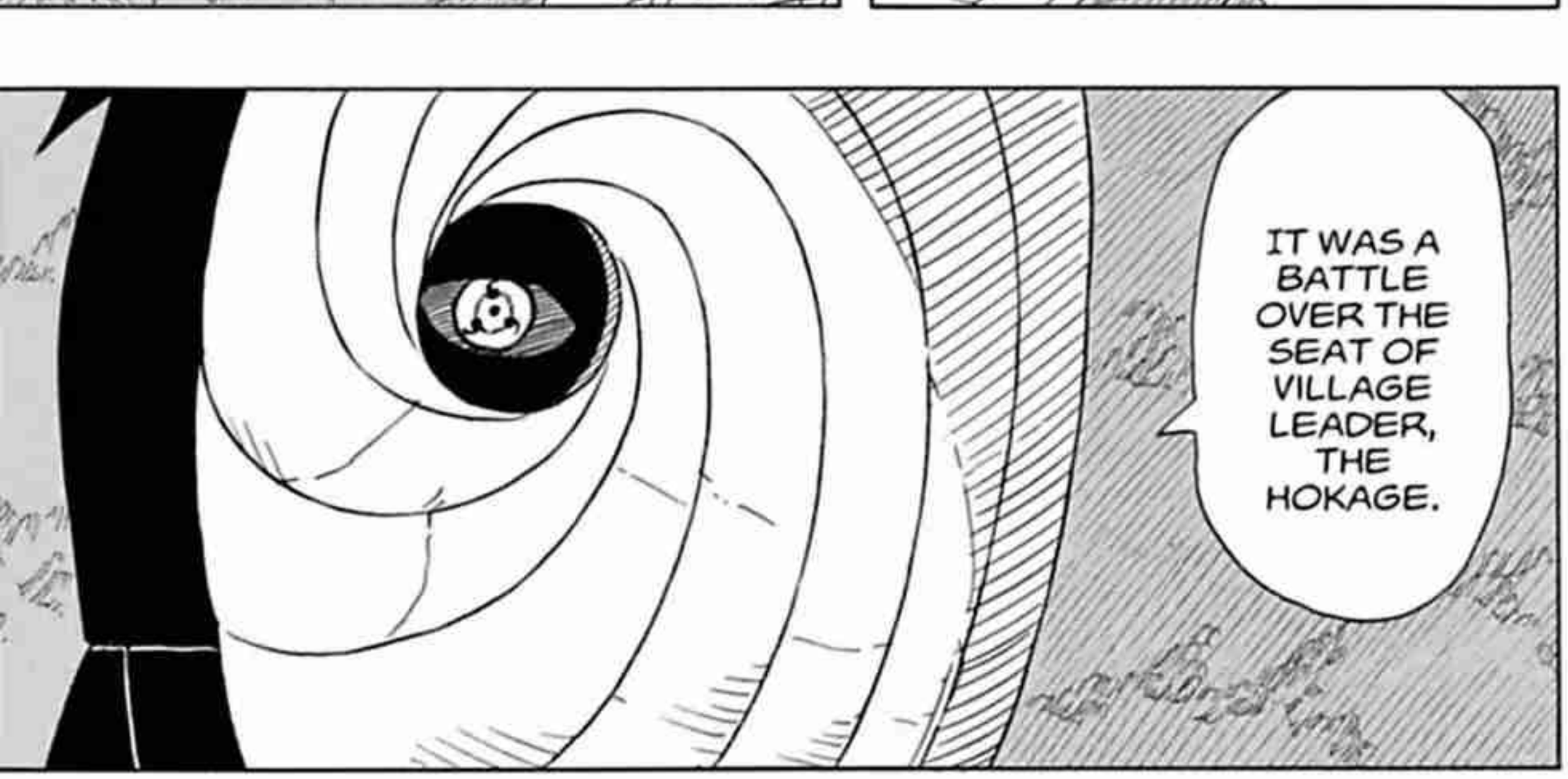
...FORGED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAND OF FIRE, WHICH WANTED TO STABILIZE ITS BORDERS.
IT WASN'T TOO LONG AFTERWARD THAT OUR ALLIANCE...

INSTAN-TANEOUS PEACE.


...ONE BY ONE, THE NUMBER OF WARS DIMIN-ISHED.
OTHER NATIONS QUICKLY FOLLOWED SUIT, AND ACCORD-INGLY...

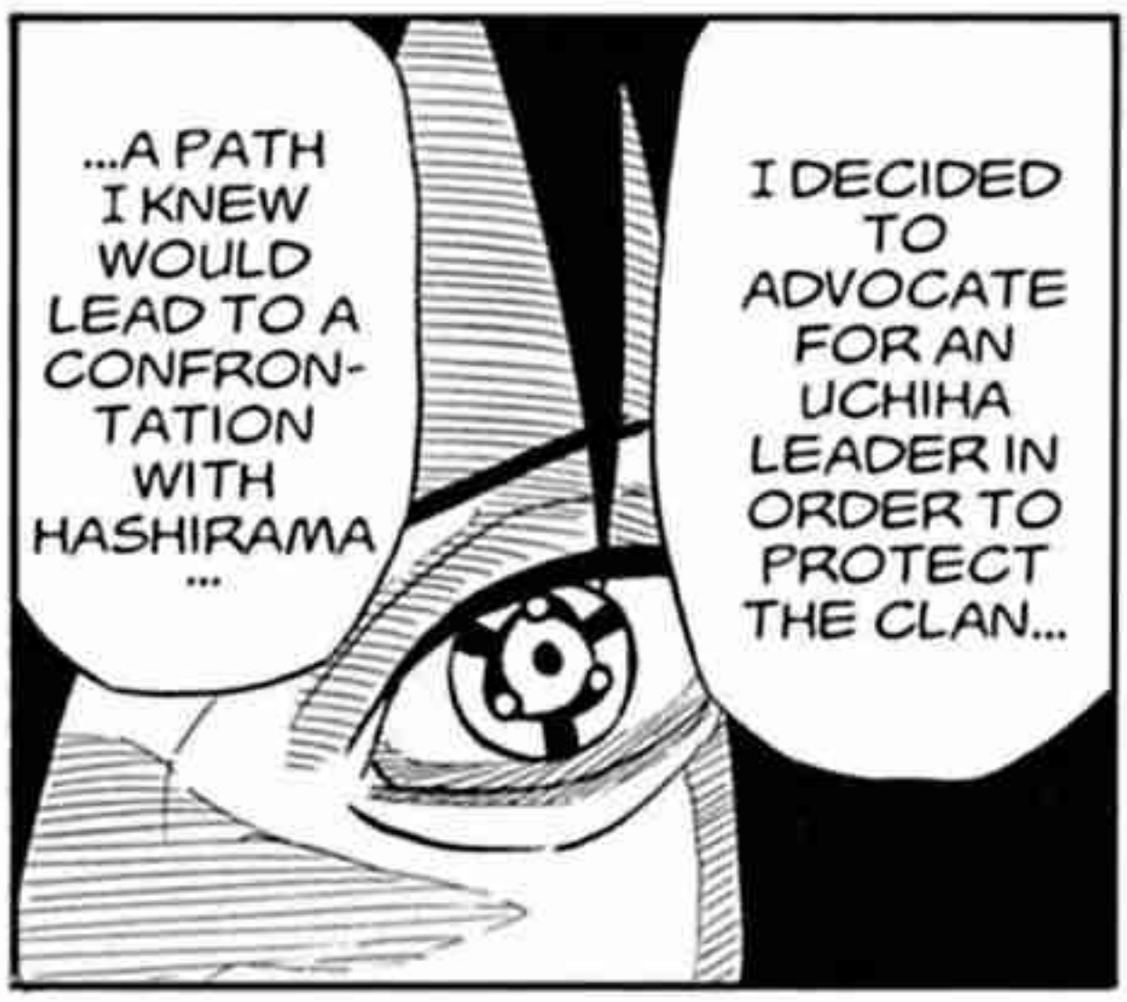
...A CERTAIN INCI-DENT?

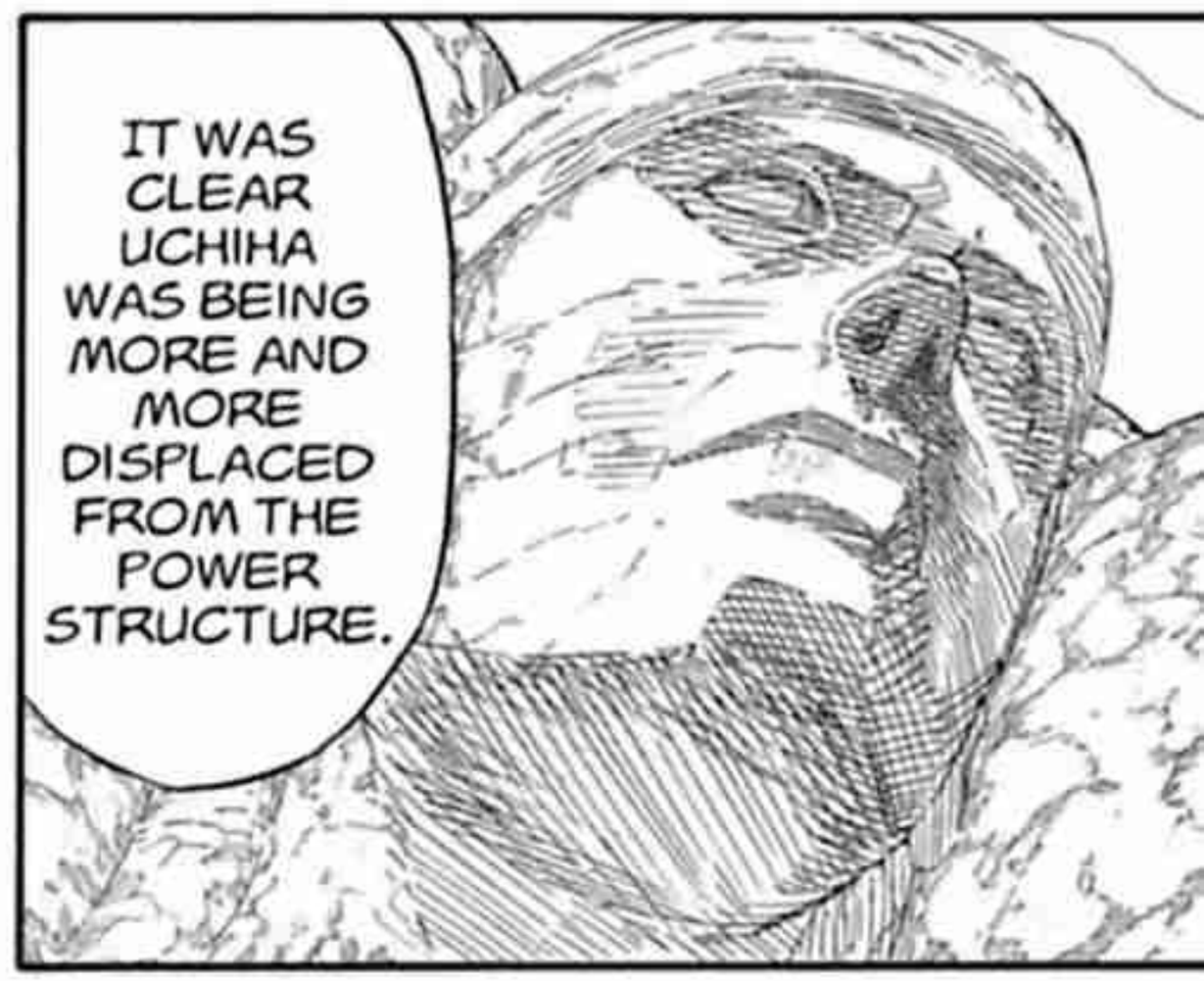

BUT DUE TO A CERTAIN INCIDENT...
...KONOHA'S PEACE WAS SHORT-LIVED.

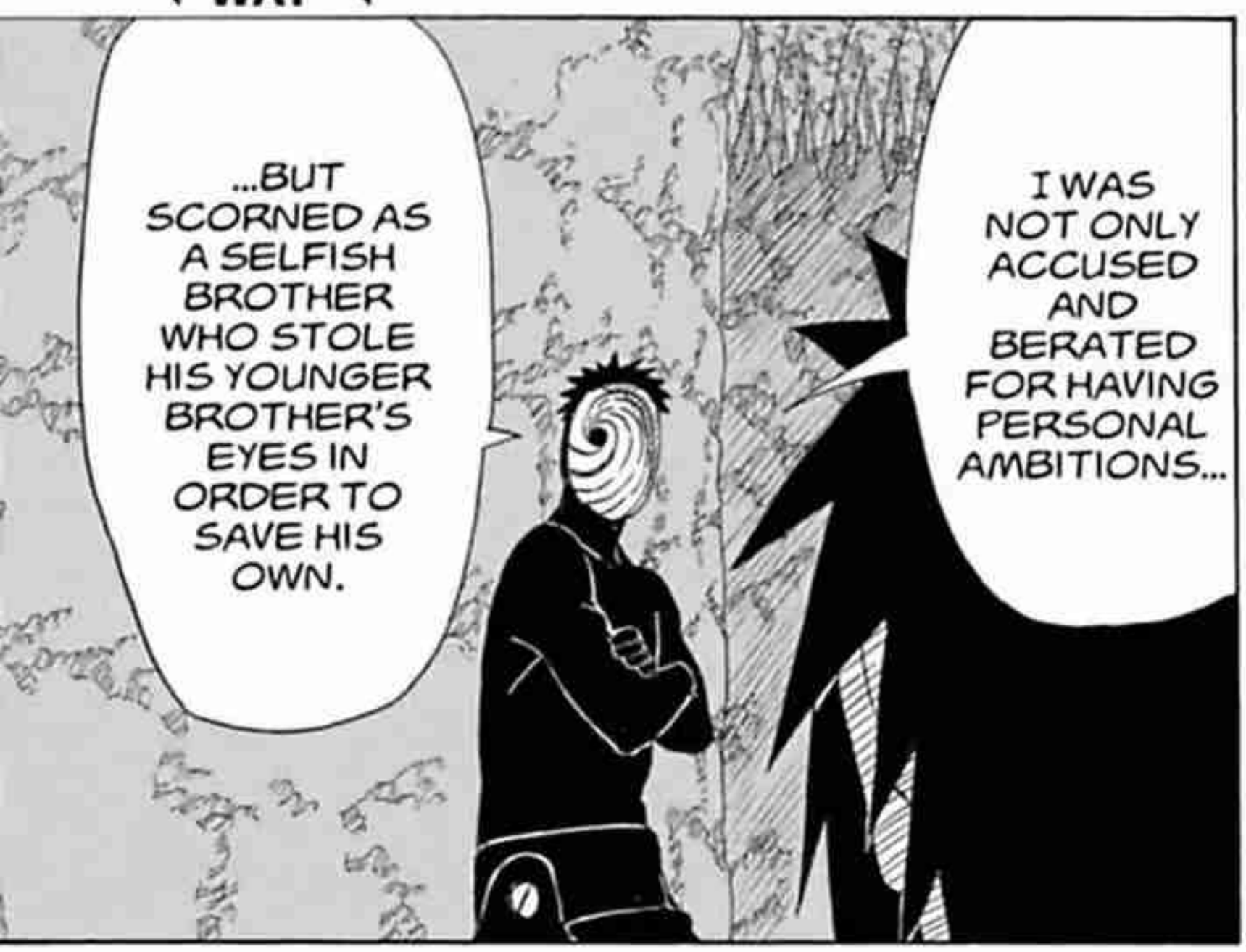

IT WAS A BATTLE OVER THE SEAT OF VILLAGE LEADER, THE HOKAGE.

BOTH THE VILLAGE AND LAND OF FIRE SELECTED HASHIRAMA.

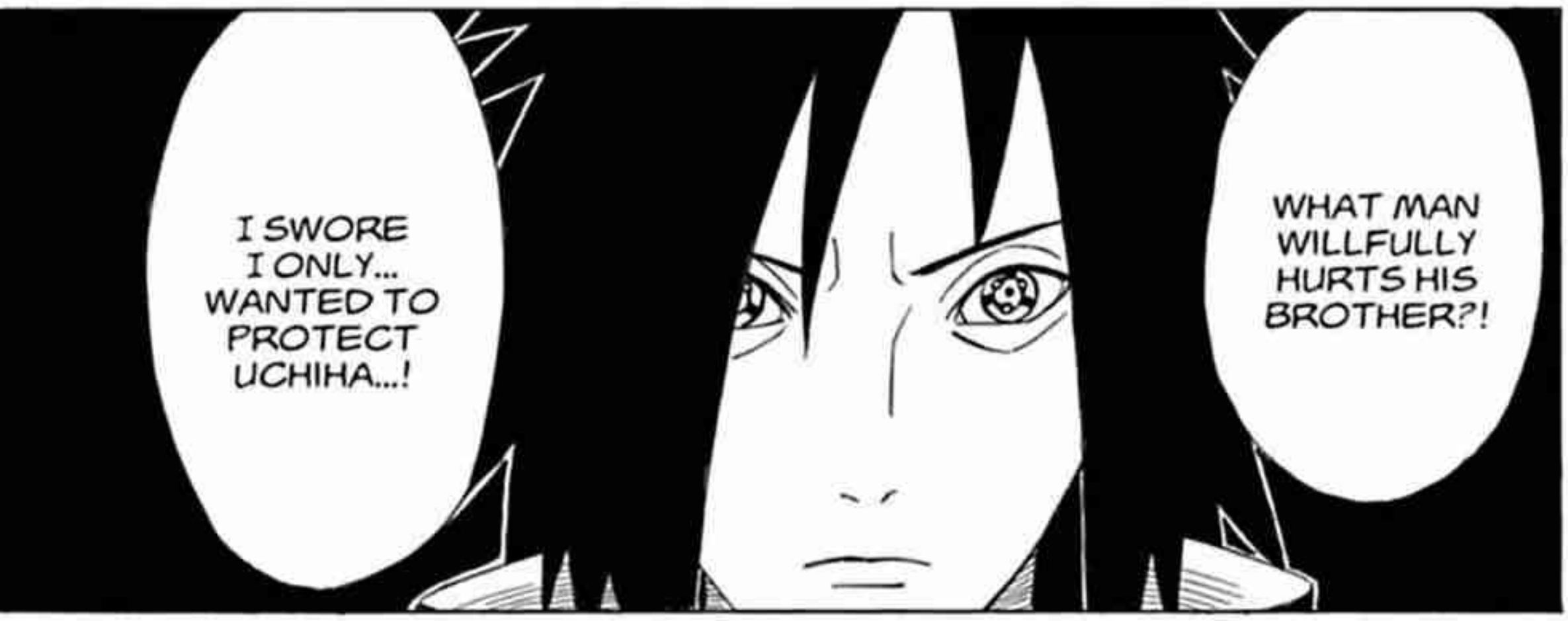
AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, SENJU HASHIRAMA ATTAINED THAT POSITION.






...BUT SCORNED AS A SELFISH BROTHER WHO STOLE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER'S EYES IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS OWN.
I WAS NOT ONLY ACCUSED AND BERATED FOR HAVING PERSONAL AMBITIONS...

...


I SWORE I ONLY... WANTED TO PROTECT UCHIHA...!
WHAT MAN WILLFULLY HURTS HIS BROTHER?!

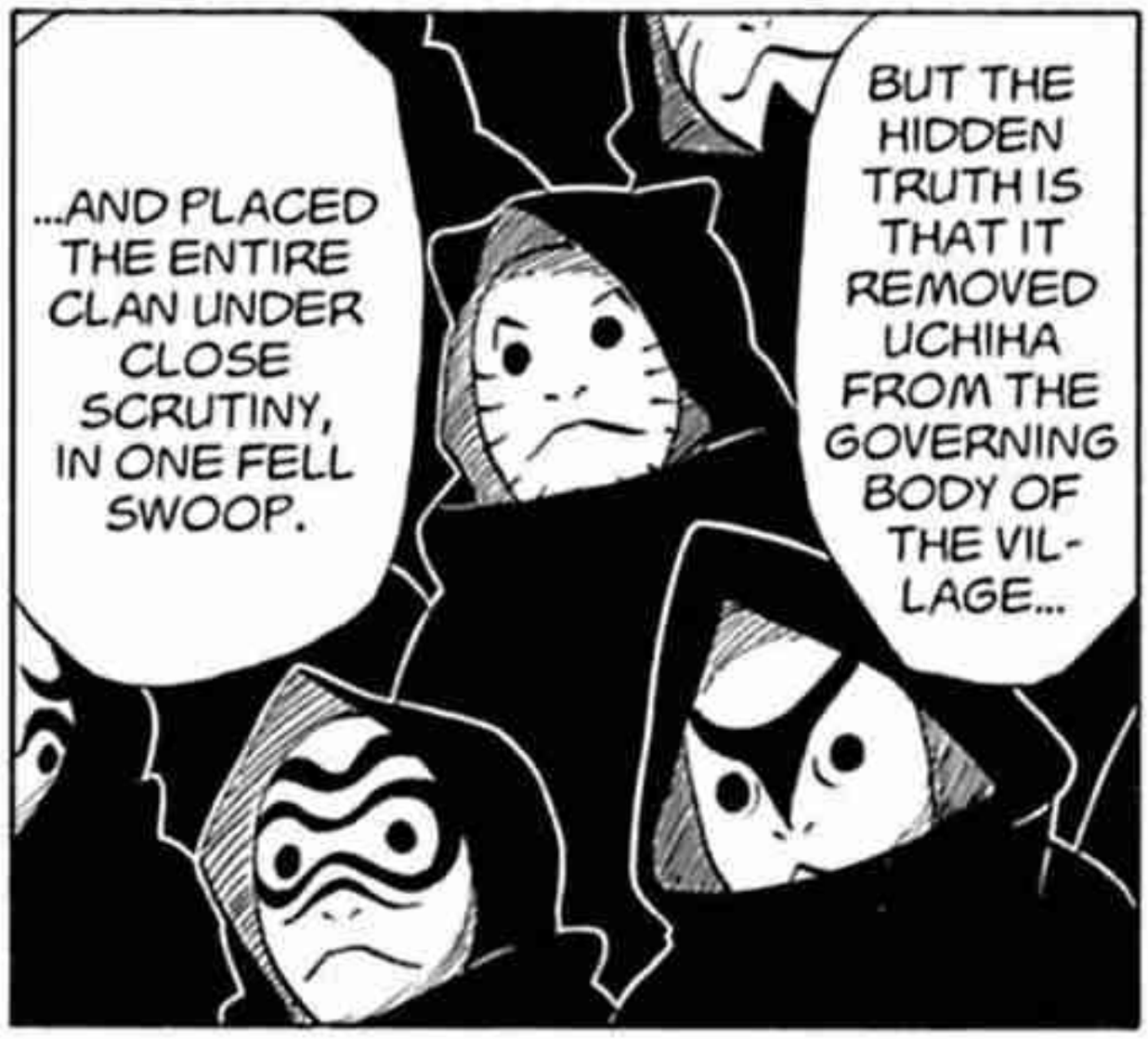
...

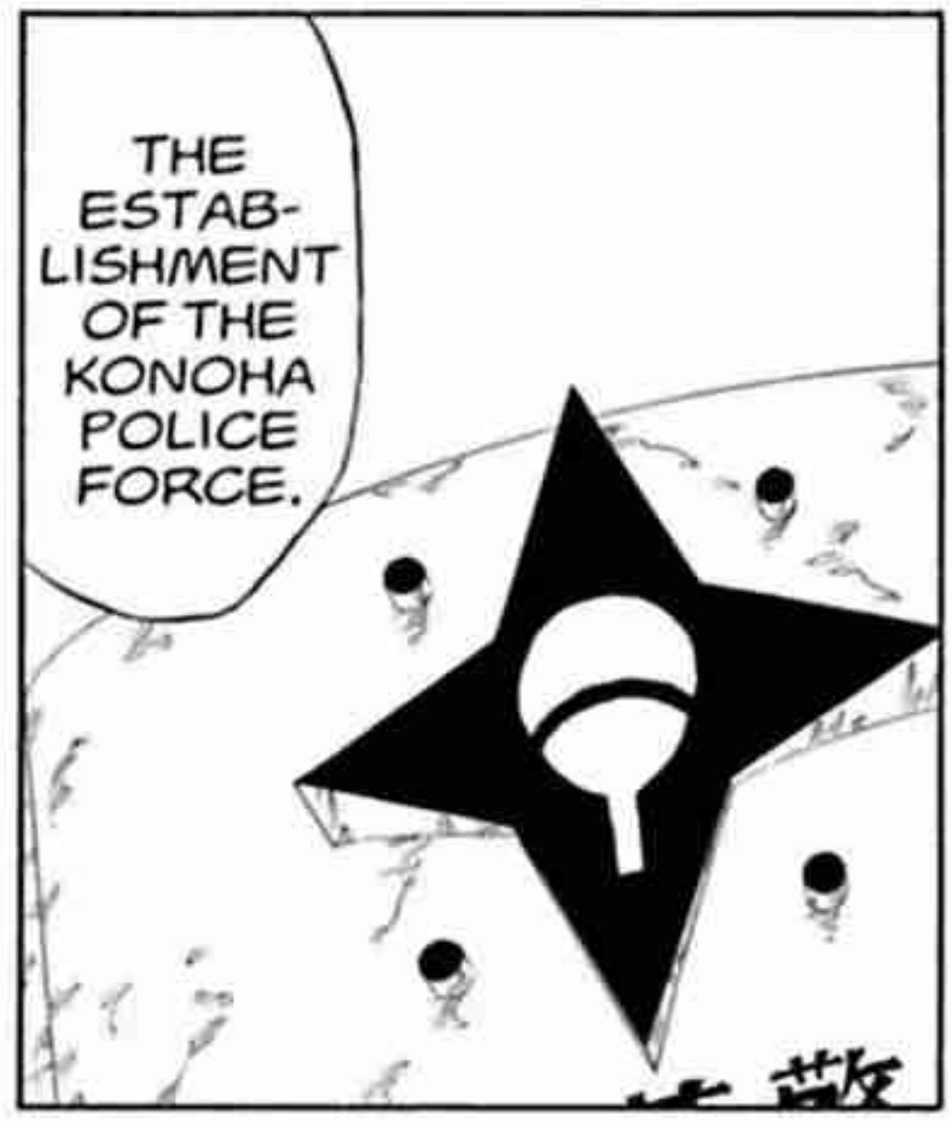
HAVING BEEN BETRAYED BY ALL.
I LEFT KONOHA.

I RETURNED AS AN AVENGER, AND DECLARED WAR ON KONOHA-GAKURE.

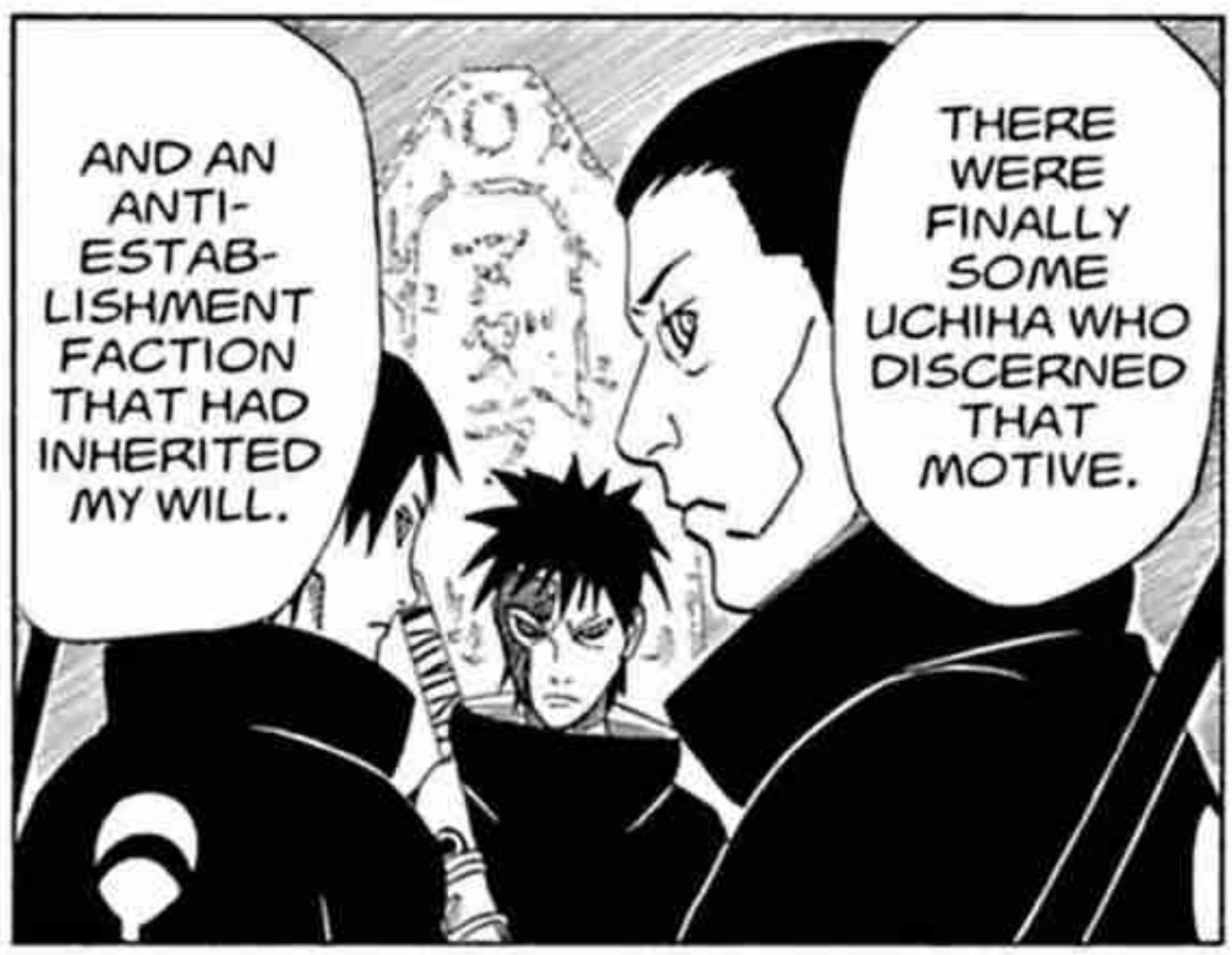
...AT THE SPOT THAT HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE FINAL VALLEY.

I WAS DEFEATED...


...AND PLACED THE ENTIRE CLAN UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY, IN ONE FELL SWOOP.
BUT THE HIDDEN TRUTH IS THAT IT REMOVED UCHIHA FROM THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE VIL-LAGE...


THE ESTAB-LISHMENT OF THE KONOHA POLICE FORCE.

...BUT IT UNFORTU-NATELY WAS TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.


AND AN ANTI-ESTAB-LISHMENT FACTION THAT HAD INHERITED MY WILL.
THERE WERE FINALLY SOME UCHIHA WHO DISCERNED THAT MOTIVE.

(MADARA)

...AND THE ONCE PROUD UCHIHA CLAN WAS REDUCED TO BEING SENJU'S LACKEYS.
TIME PASSED... THE LEAD-ERSHIP STAYED IN SENJU'S HANDS...

THE RE-APPEARANCE OF THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT 16 YEARS AGO.

ONLY UCHIHA OCULAR POWERS CAN TAME AND CONTROL NINE TAILS...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?

COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO UCHIHA.

BUT IT WAS A SPONTANEOUSLY GENERATED NATURAL DISASTER.

...SURMISED THAT THAT INCIDENT WAS THE DOING OF AN UCHIHA.

THE KONOHA ELDERS...

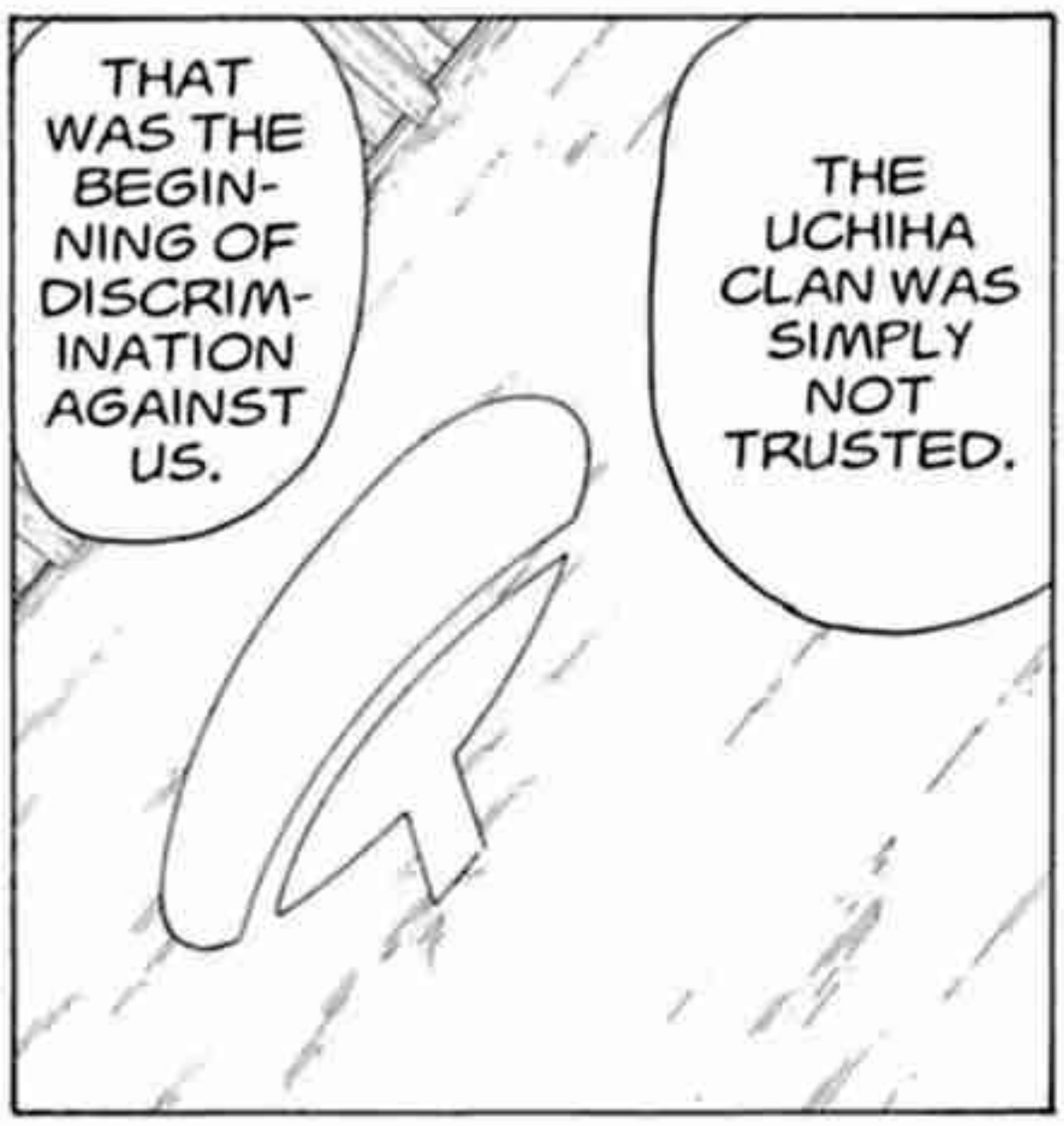
...

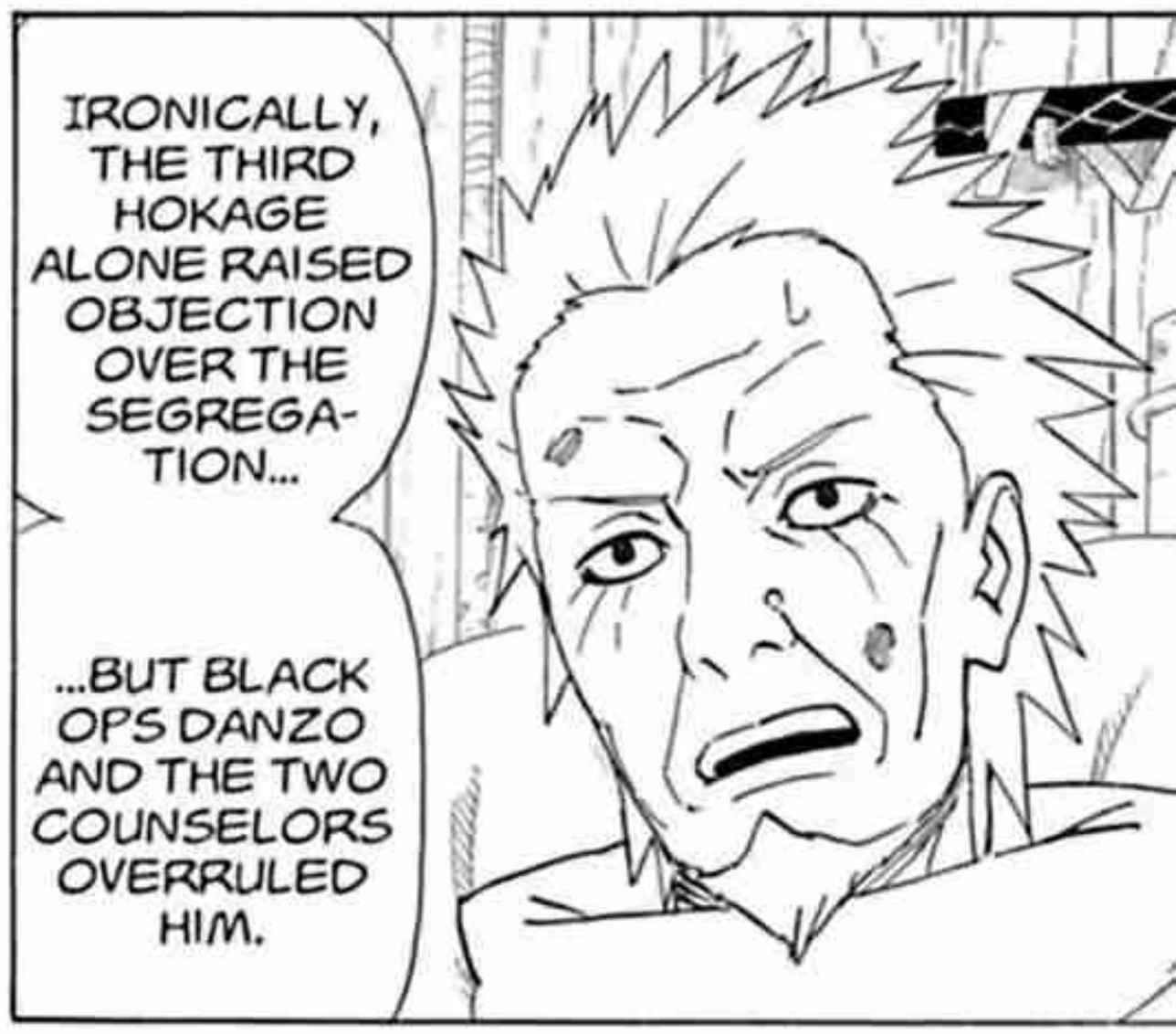
THAT UCHIHA WAS TRYING TO RAISE AN INSURRECTION TO TAKE OVER THE LEADERSHIP...

AND YET, UNJUST SUSPICIONS PERSISTED.

AND THE CLAN'S LIVING QUARTERS WERE RELOCATED TO ONE CORNER OF THE VIL-LAGE...
IT WAS AN ISOLATION TACTIC.

BLACK OPS WERE ASSIGNED TO RUN SURVEIL-LANCE ON UCHIHA.


THAT WAS THE BEGIN-NING OF DISCRIM-INATION AGAINST US.
THE UCHIHA CLAN WAS SIMPLY NOT TRUSTED.


IRONICALLY, THE THIRD HOKAGE ALONE RAISED OBJECTION OVER THE SEGREGA-TION...
...BUT BLACK OPS DANZO AND THE TWO COUNSELORS OVERRULED HIM.

...AND SUSPI-CIONS EVENTU-ALLY EVOLVED INTO REALITY ...
THEIR DISTRUST GAVE RISE TO BAD BLOOD...

...TO TAKE OVER THE VILLAGE...

THE UCHIHA CLAN STARTED PLOTTING A COUP D'ÉTAT...

AND SO KONOHA'S LEADERS SENT IN A SPY TO WATCH THE UCHIHA CLAN.

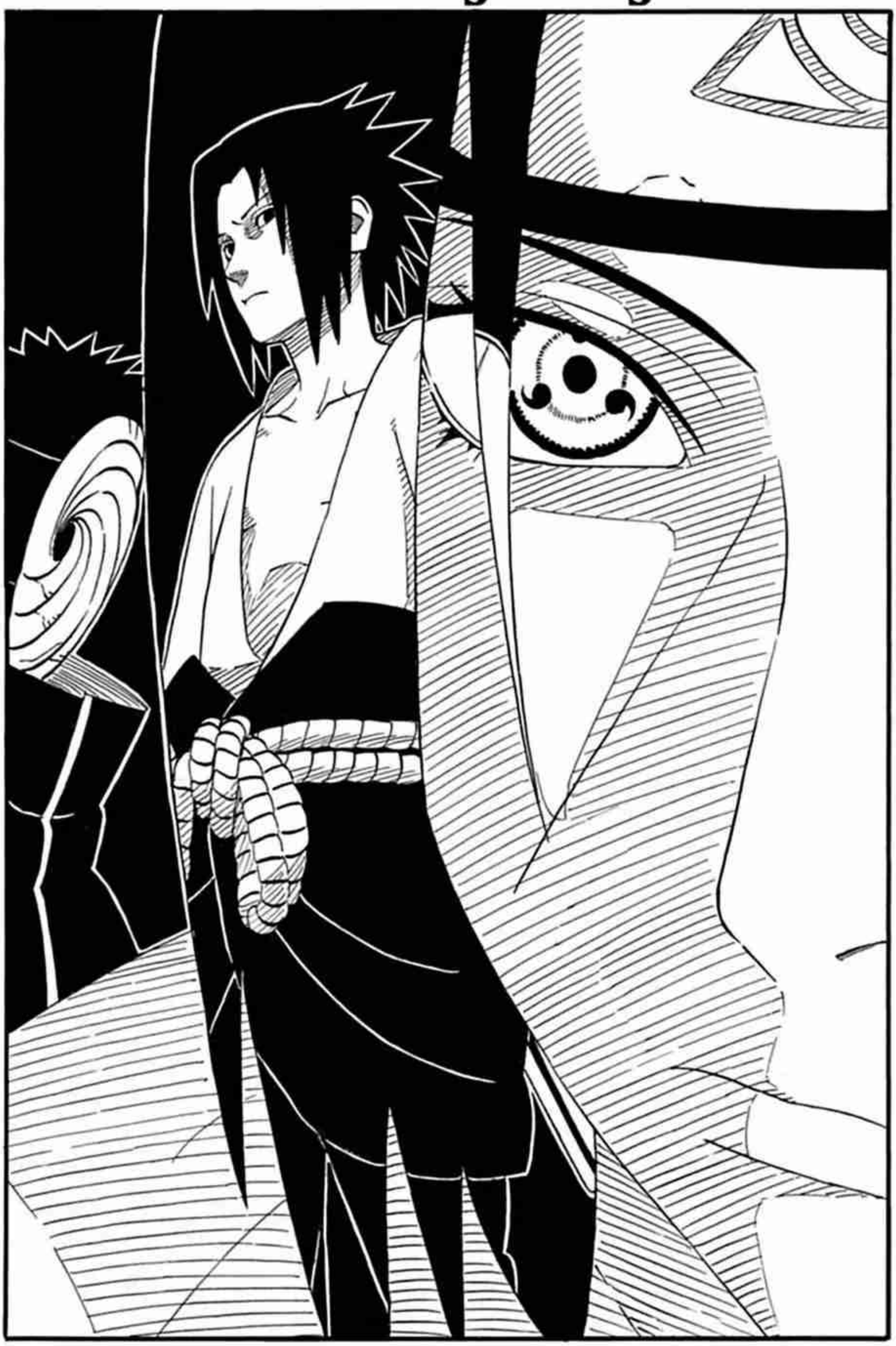
?!!

AND THAT'S WHEN HIS ODYSSEY BEGAN.

THAT SPY WAS YOUR OLDER BROTHER... UCHIHA ITACHI.

NARUTO

Number 400: Living a Nightmare

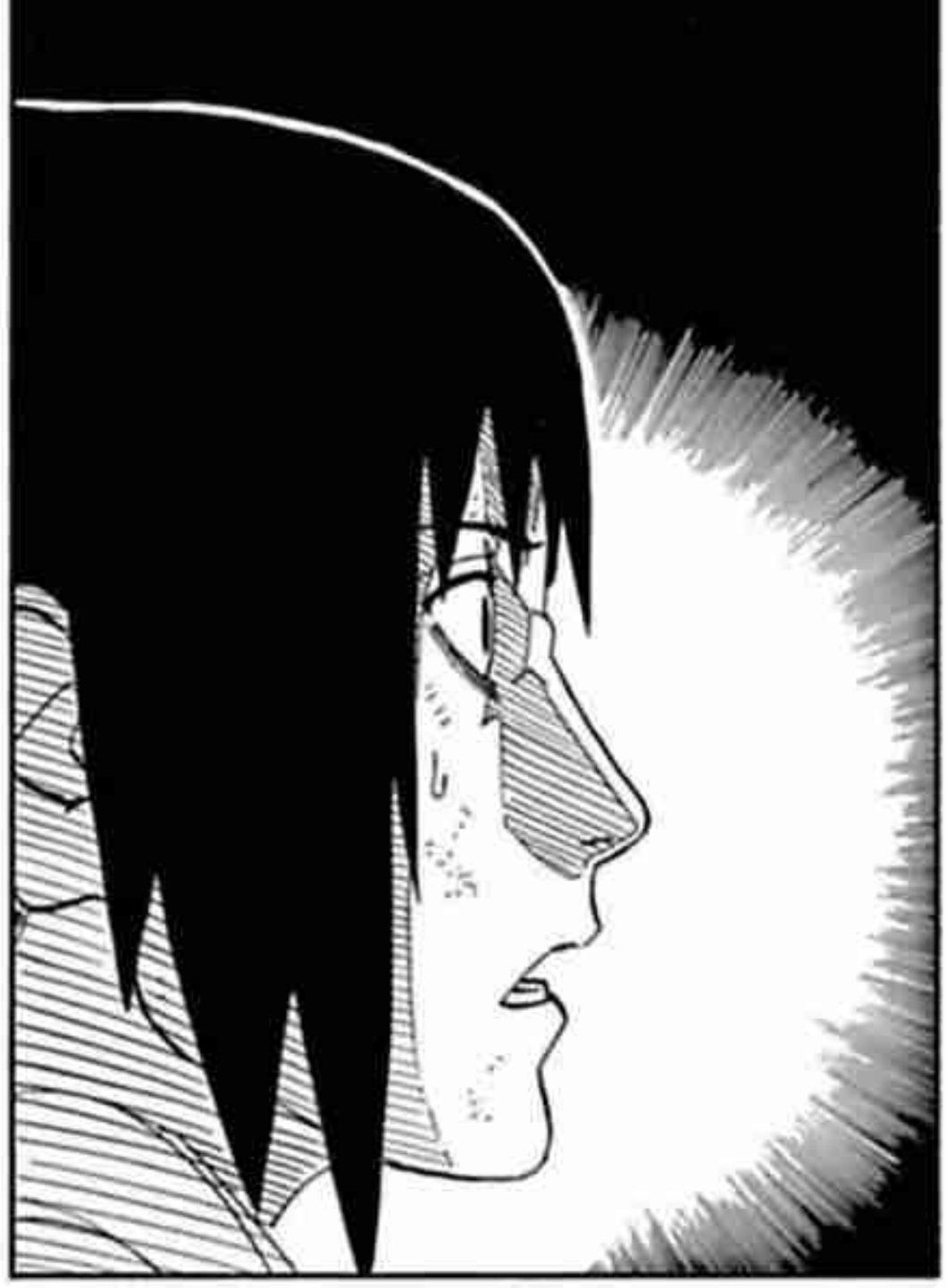


AN UCHIHA COUP...?
AND ITACHI... A SPY?

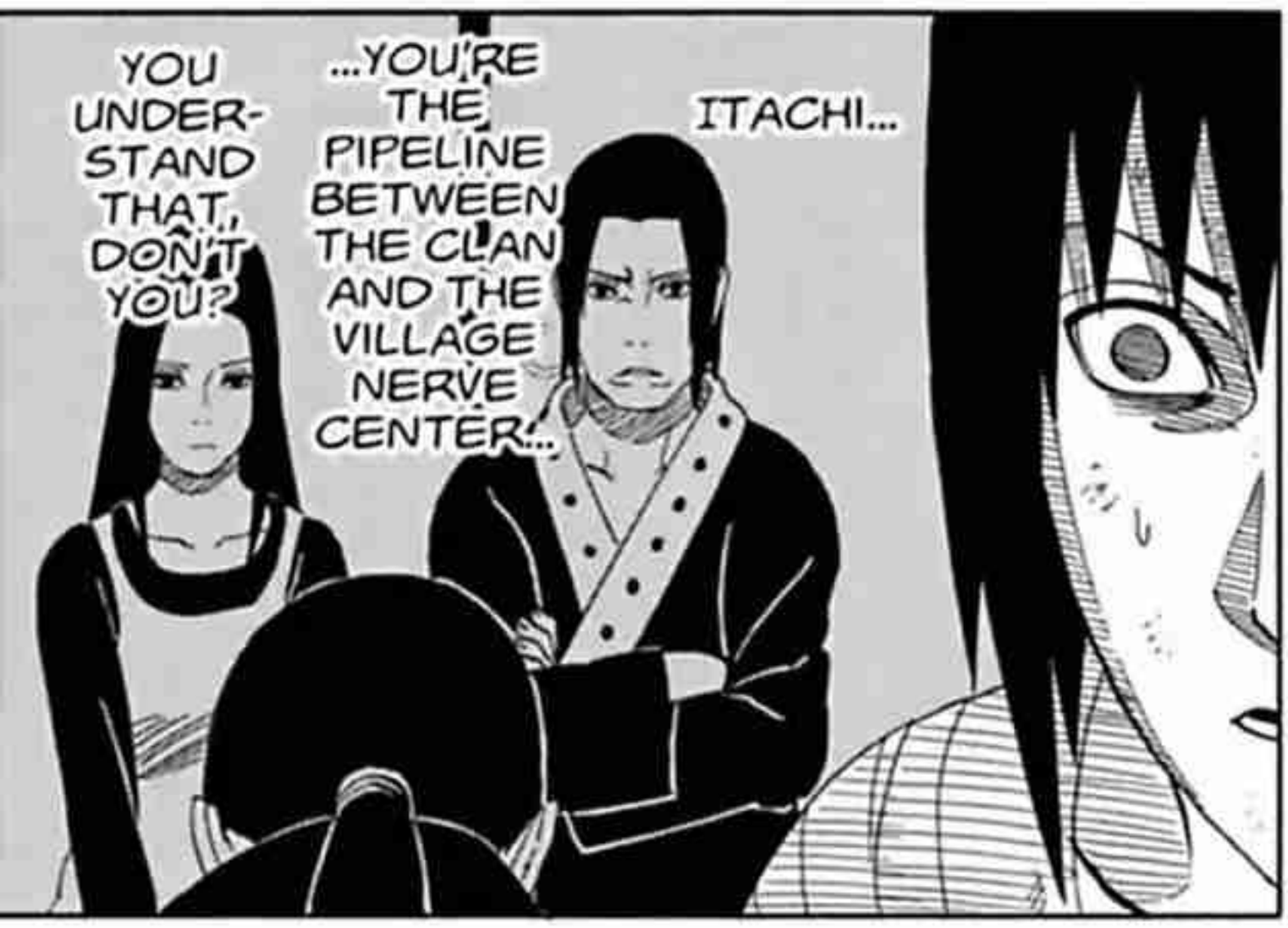
...

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP BY UCHIHA, BUT YOU WERE TOLD NOTHING.
BECAUSE YOU WERE SO YOUNG.

BUT IT'S ALL TRUE.



IN FACT, YOUR FATHER FUGAKU WAS THE MASTERMIND OF THAT ANTICIPATED COUP.


YOU UNDER-STAND THAT, DON'T YOU?
...YOU'RE THE PIPELINE BETWEEN THE CLAN AND THE VILLAGE NERVE CENTER...
ITACHI...

AND ITACHI WAS A SPY WHO ENTERED THE BLACK OPS ON YOUR FATHER'S ORDERS.

ITACHI WAS SUPPLYING THE VILLAGE WITH INTELLI-GENCE ON UCHIHA.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE WAS A DOUBLE AGENT.
HOW-EVER... IT WAS ACTUALLY THE OP-POSITE.

WHY WOULD ITACHI BETRAY UCHIHA?
...SO WHY?

...WHAT A HEAVY BURDEN THAT IS TO BEAR.
YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE ...

...THE THIRD GREAT NINJA WAR TOOK PLACE AND ITACHI WITNESSED THE DEATHS OF MANY PEOPLE.
BUT WHEN ITACHI WAS ONLY FOUR YEARS OLD...

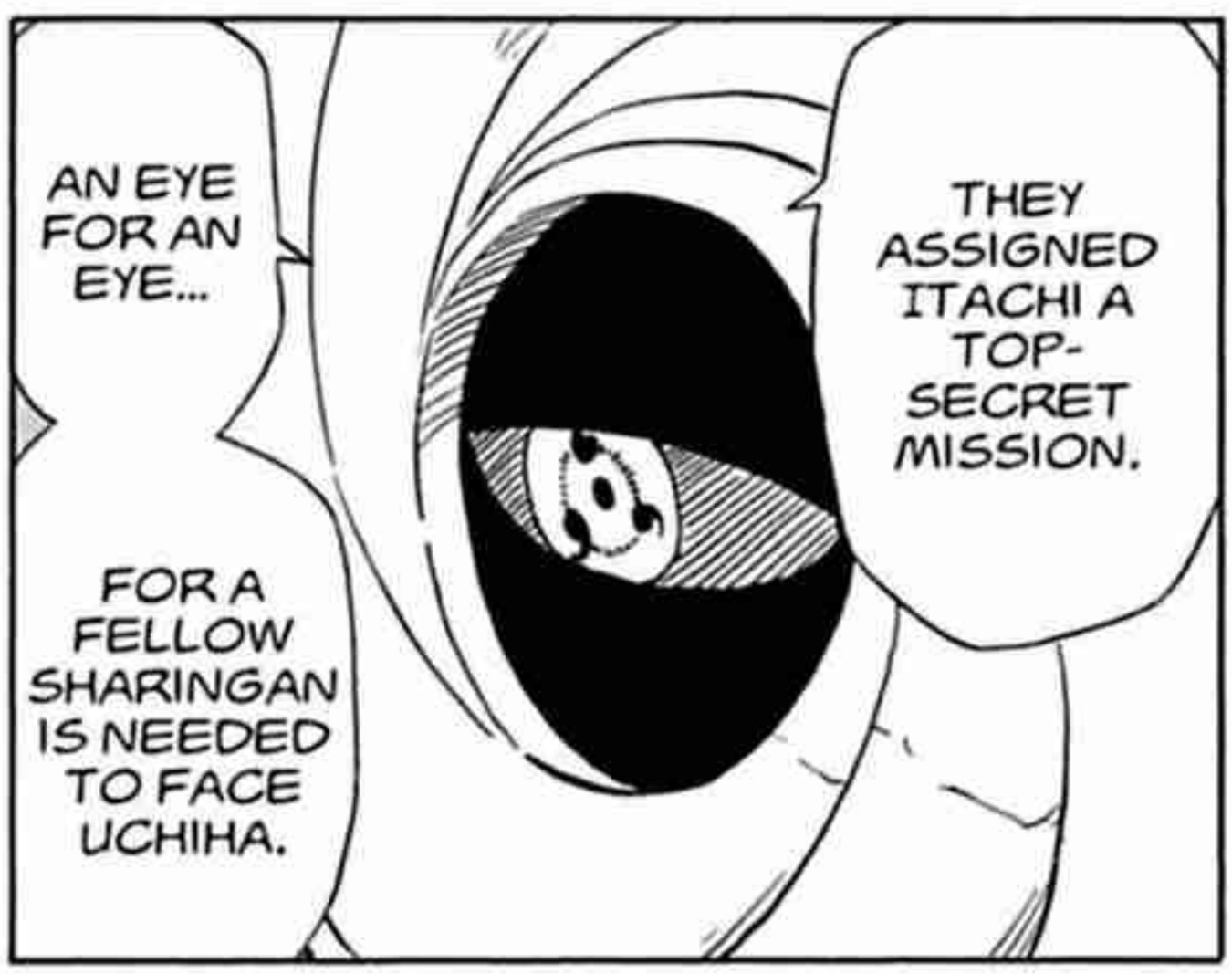
?

SINCE YOU PER-SONALLY NEVER EXPERI-ENCED WAR...
...YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO UNDER-STAND THIS.

THAT TRAUMA MADE ITACHI INTO A CONFLICT-HATING, PEACE-LOVING MAN.
HE SHOULD'VE NEVER HAD TO EXPERI-ENCE WAR AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE...
...WAR IS HELL.

AND THE KONOHA LEADERS USED THAT.
A SHINOBI WHO LOVED HIS VILLAGE, IRRESPECTIVE OF CLAN IDENTITY OR HISTORY.

...FOREMOST IN HIS MIND AND ACTIONS.
ONE WHO ALWAYS HAD THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE VILLAGE...


AN EYE FOR AN EYE...
FOR A FELLOW SHARINGAN IS NEEDED TO FACE UCHIHA.
THEY ASSIGNED ITACHI A TOP-SECRET MISSION.

THAT MISSION...

THAT'S RIGHT.
...

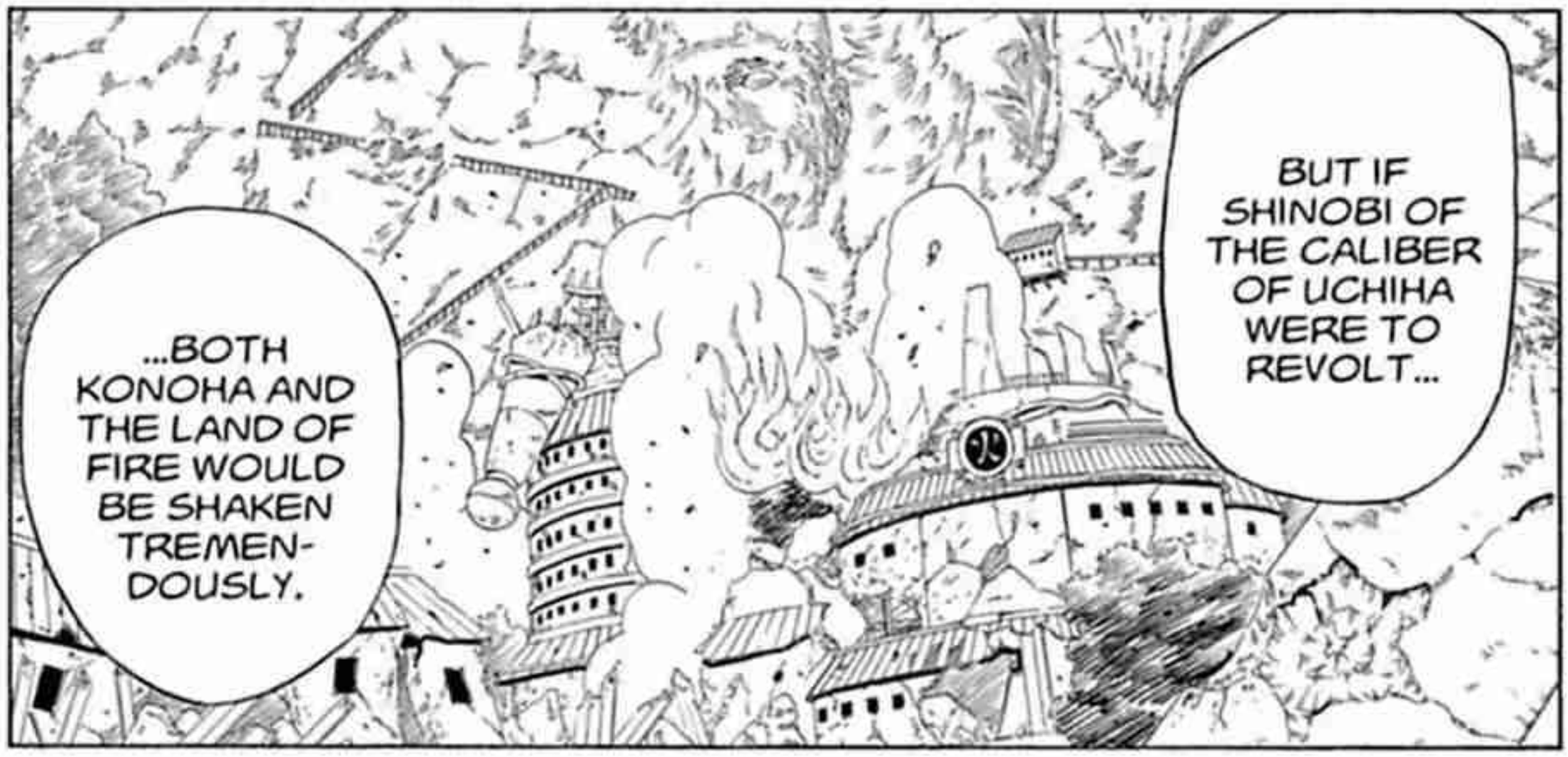
...WAS THE ERADICATION OF THE ENTIRE UCHIHA CLAN...

...WHEN HE HEARD THAT.

I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT HE WENT THROUGH EMOTION-ALLY...

THE DECISION TO RAISE HIS HAND AGAINST FELLOW CLANSMEN WAS PROBABLY AN UNBELIEVABLE STRUGGLE.

ITACHI WAS FACED WITH A TERRIBLE CHOICE.


...BOTH KONOHA AND THE LAND OF FIRE WOULD BE SHAKEN TREMENDOUSLY.
BUT IF SHINOBI OF THE CALIBER OF UCHIHA WERE TO REVOLT...

...WOULD LEAD TO MANY DEATHS, INCLUDING THAT OF INNOCENT FOLKS UNRELATED TO THE SHINOBI WORLD.
THE SELF-CENTERED ACT OF THE UCHIHA CLAN...

IT COULD EASILY BECOME THE TRIGGER FOR THE FOURTH GREAT NINJA WAR.
OTHER NATIONS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION AND INVADE.

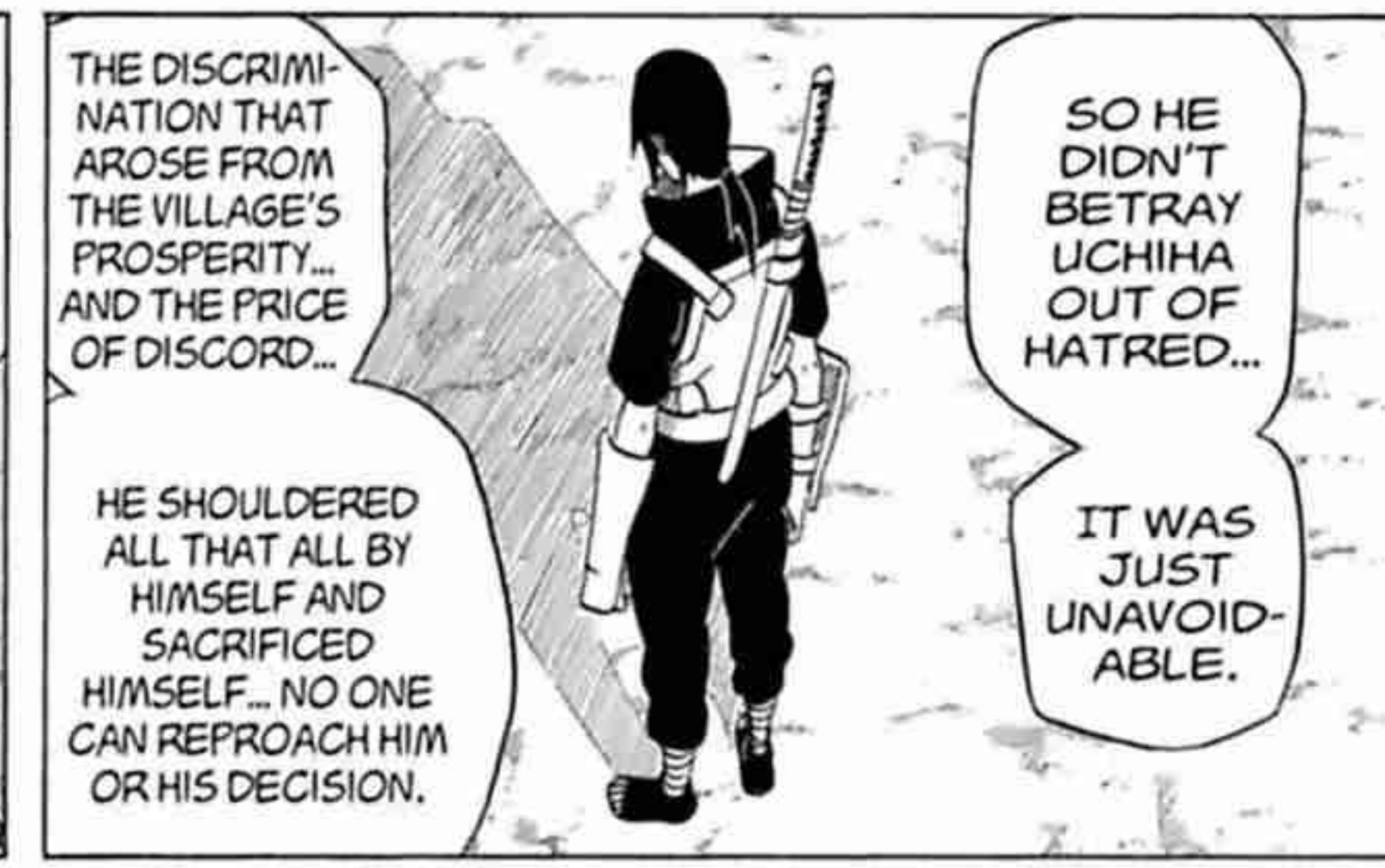
...

IF YOU WERE ITACHI, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?

...

THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD DROP THE CURTAIN ON HIS OWN CLAN'S HISTORY.

AND SO ITACHI MADE HIS DECISION.



...I WAS TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE ALONE.
IN EXCHANGE FOR LETTING ME CARRY OUT MY REVENGE AGAINST UCHIHA...

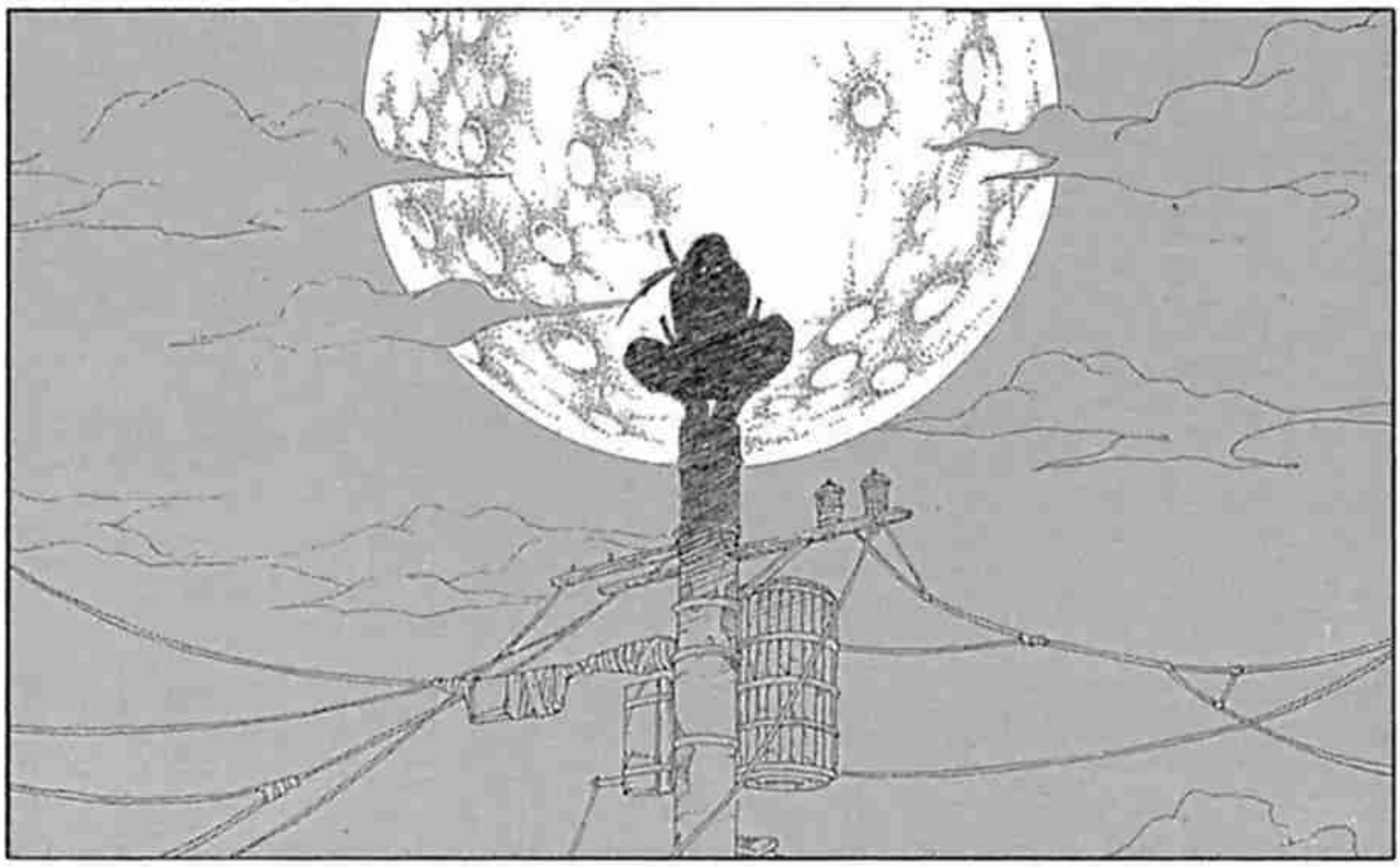
...AND MADE ME A PROPOSAL.
ITACHI SOUGHT ME OUT...

HE TRIED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH UCHIHA TO REACH SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE.
THEN THE THIRD HOKAGE ACTUALLY TRIED TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION THROUGH OTHER MEANS.

AND HE WOULD AID ME AGAINST THE CLAN...

...AND HIS EFFORTS FAILED...
BUT TIME RAN OUT...

...LEADING TO THAT NIGHT...

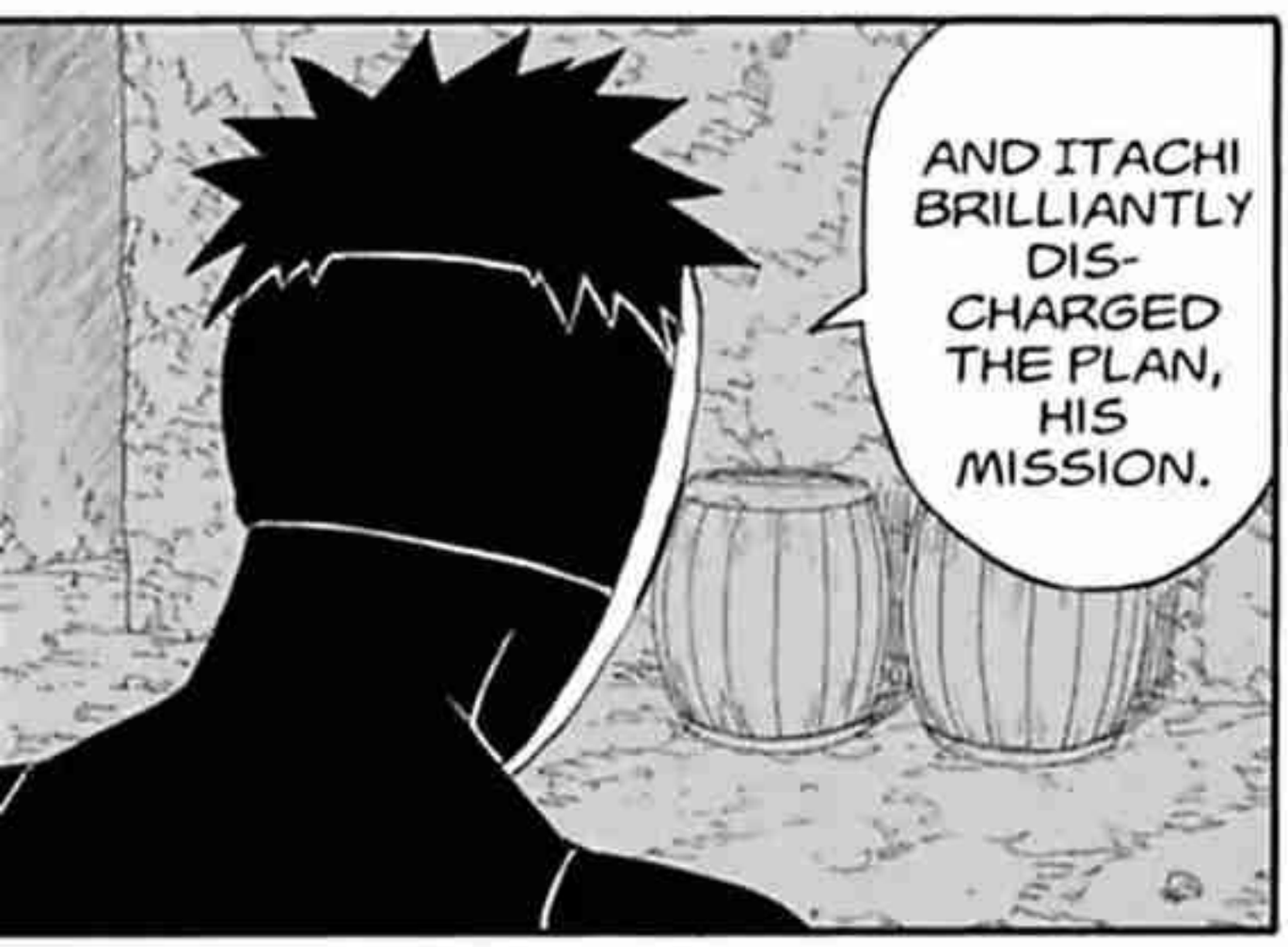


IT WAS A MIS-SION...

ALL OF IT WAS PLANNED.

...TO BECOME KNOWN AS A CRIMINAL WHO MURDERED HIS OWN CLAN...

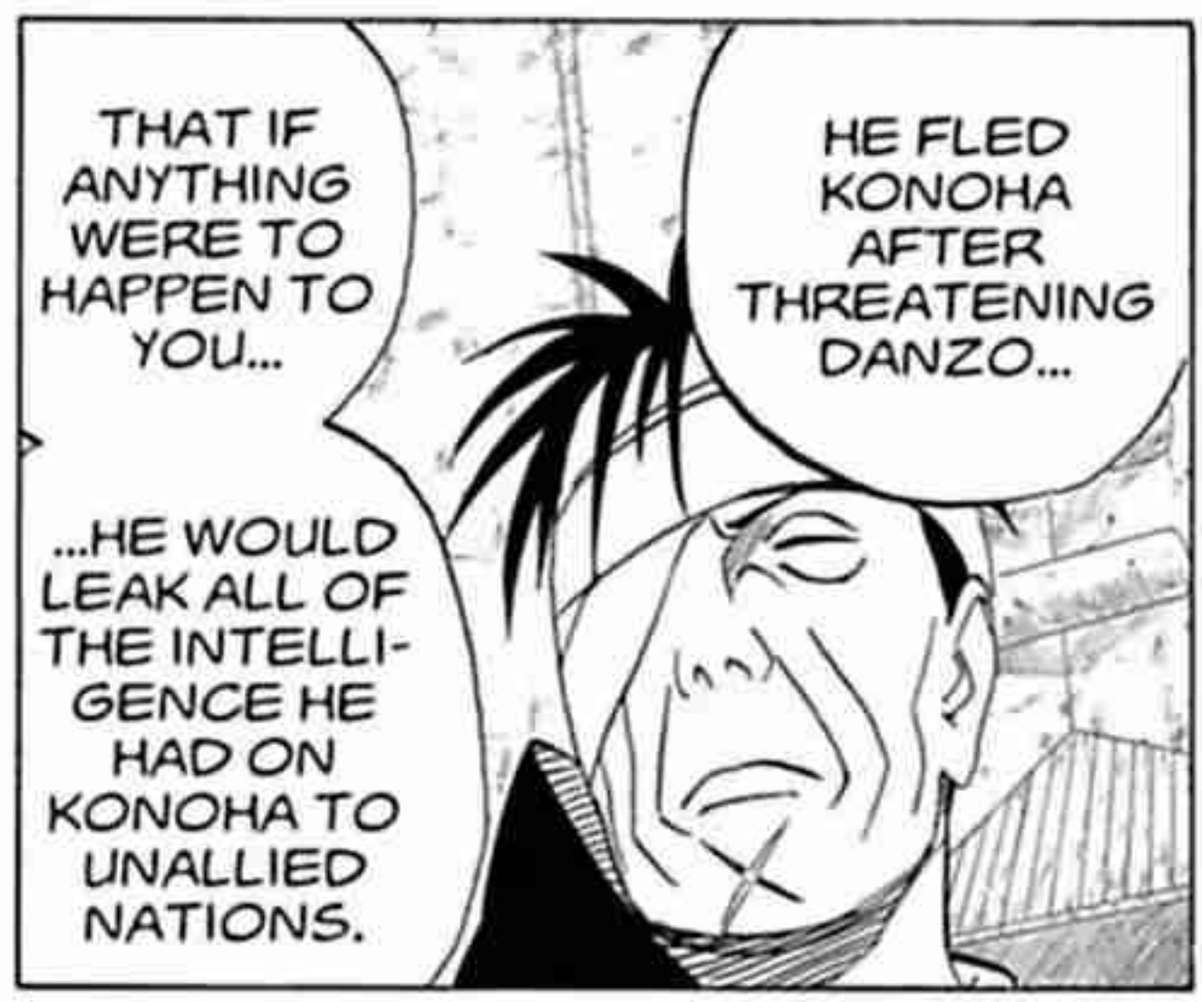
...BEAR THE BURDEN OF DISGRACE AND BECOME A ROGUE SHINOBI...



...HE COULDN'T KILL HIS LITTLE BROTHER.

...AGAINST DANZO AND THE COUNSEL-ORS.
AFTERWARDS, ITACHI APPEALED TO THE THIRD HOKAGE, BE-SEECHING HIM TO PROTECT YOU...

HE WORRIED ABOUT YOU ABOVE ALL ELSE.

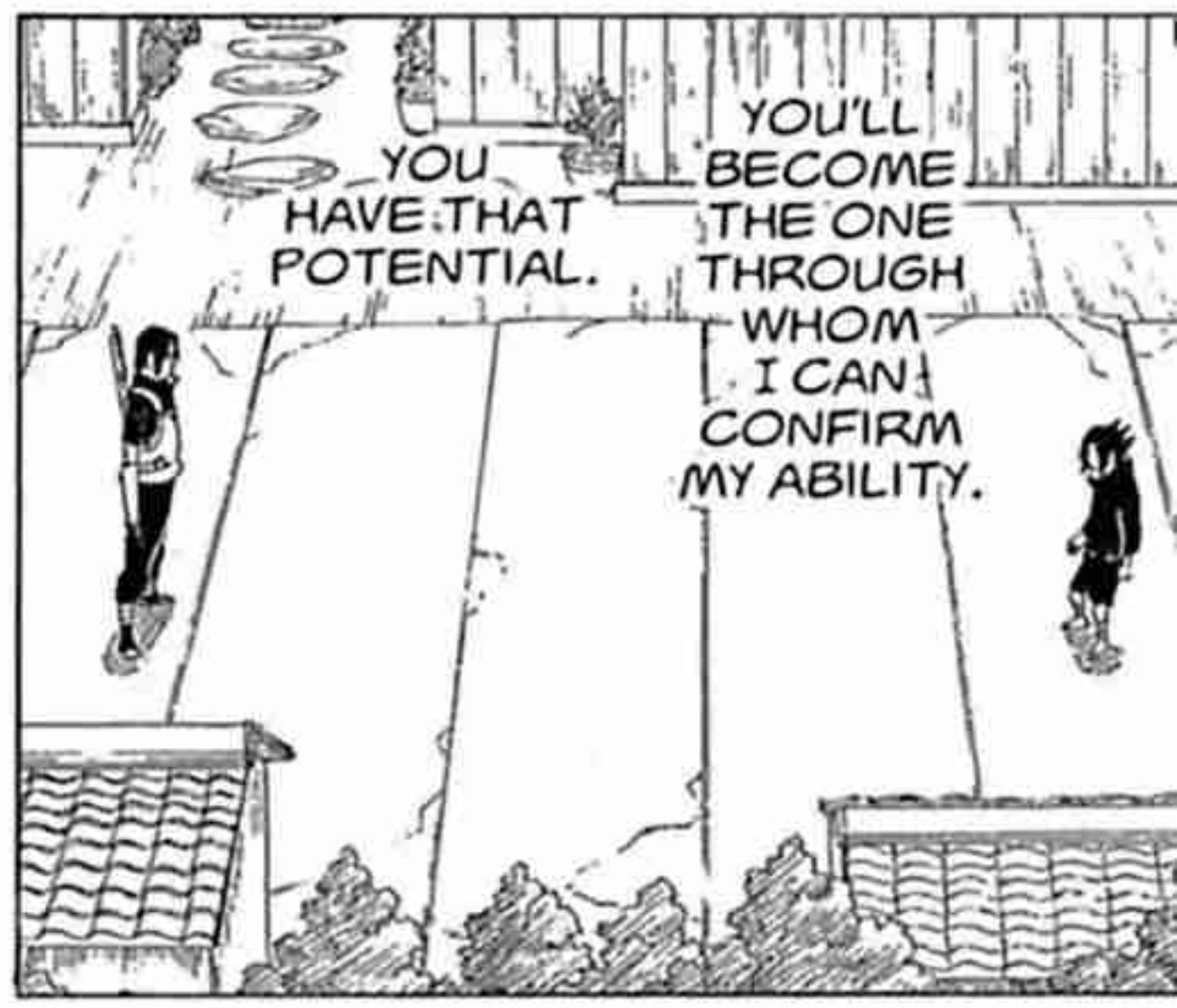

THAT IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
HE FLED KONOHA AFTER THREATENING DANZO...
...HE WOULD LEAK ALL OF THE INTELLI-GENCE HE HAD ON KONOHA TO UNALLIED NATIONS.

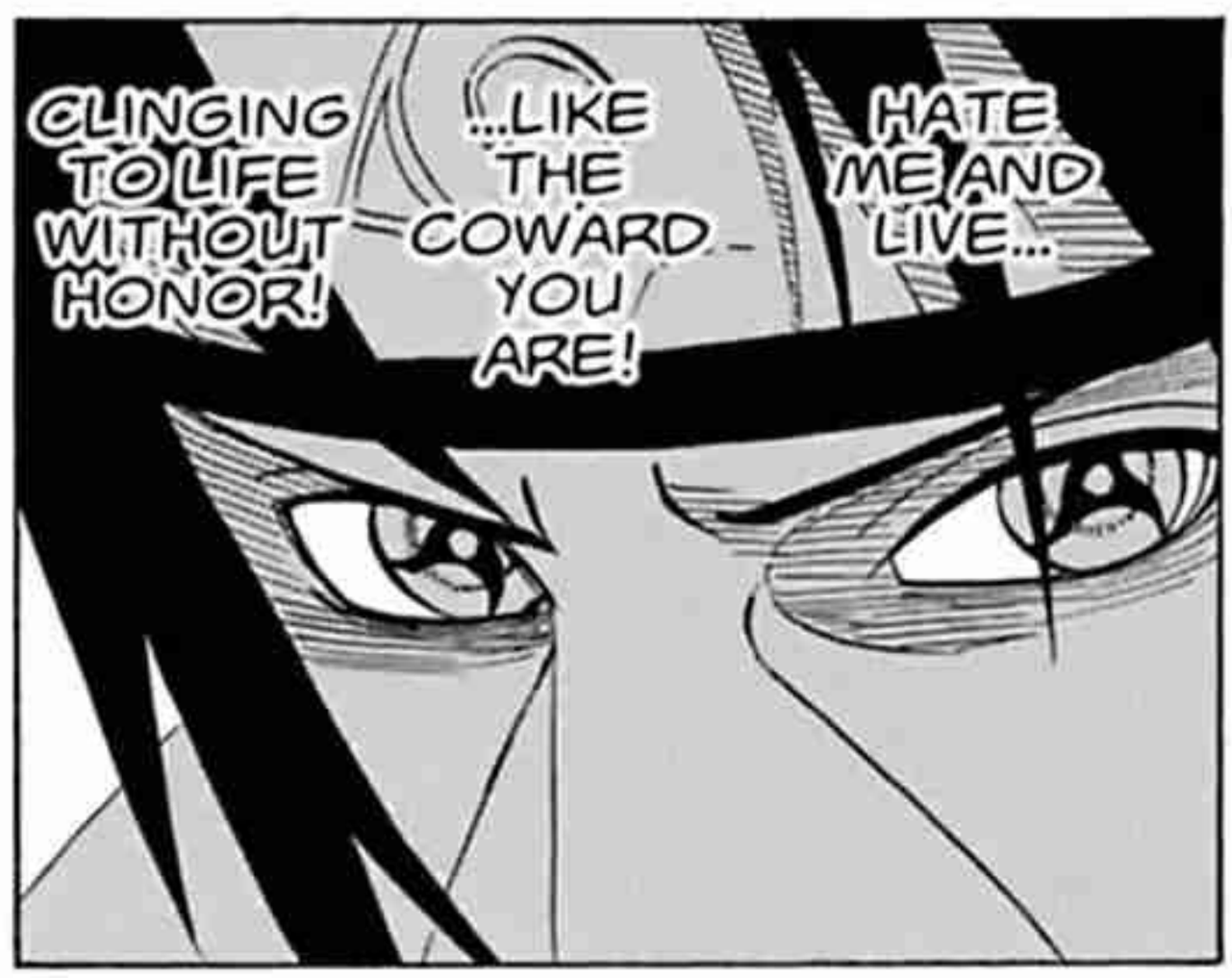
SO HE TOLD YOU AS MUCH AS HE COULD.
AND YET HE COULDN'T TELL YOU THE FULL TRUTH.

...WAS TO DETERMINE YOUR ABILITY....
PRETENDING TO BE THE KIND OF BROTHER YOU HOPED FOR...

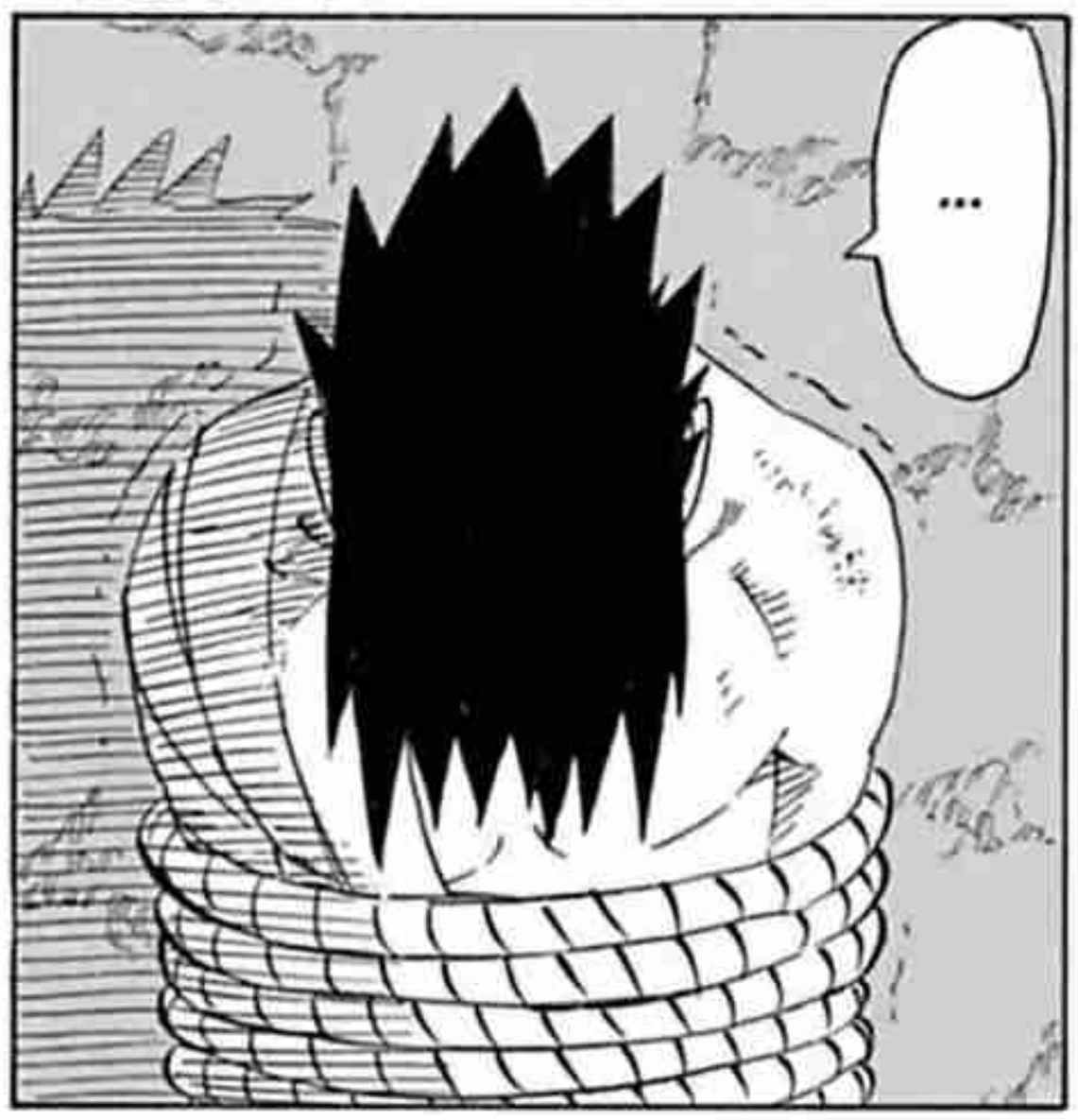
BECAUSE...
IT'S NOT TRUE. MY BROTHER WOULDN'T DO THIS.

...SO I'LL LET YOU LIVE... FOR MY SAKE.
YOU'VE FELT ANGER AND HATED ME. YOU'VE ALWAYS HOPED TO SURPASS ME...


YOU HAVE THAT POTENTIAL.
YOU'LL BECOME THE ONE THROUGH WHOM I CAN CONFIRM MY ABILITY.


CLINGING TO LIFE WITHOUT HONOR!
...LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE!
HATE ME AND LIVE...

...SETTLE FOR HATING ME...
BABY BROTHER, YOU'RE PATHETIC. IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME...


...

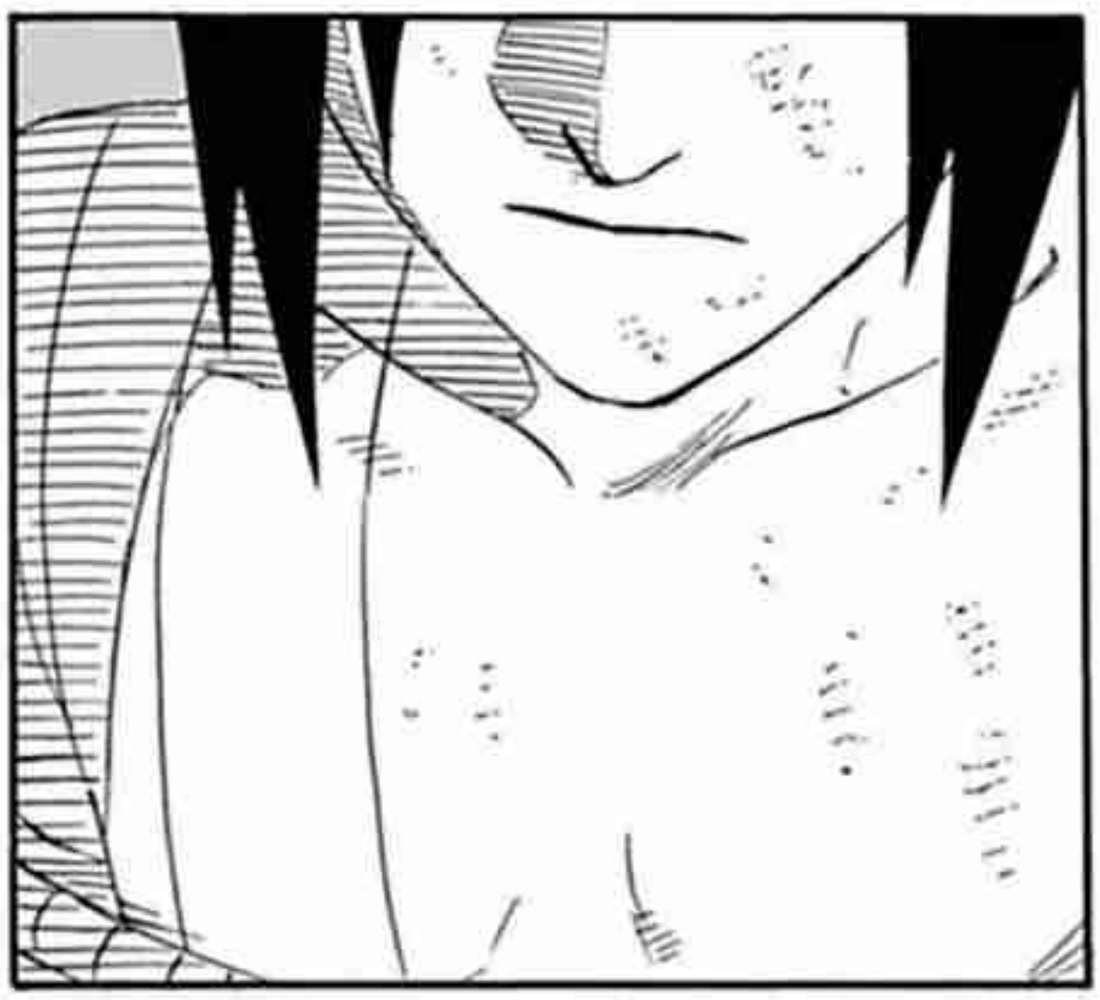
...YOU WILL FIND ME AGAIN.
AND SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU HAVE THE SAME EYES AS I...

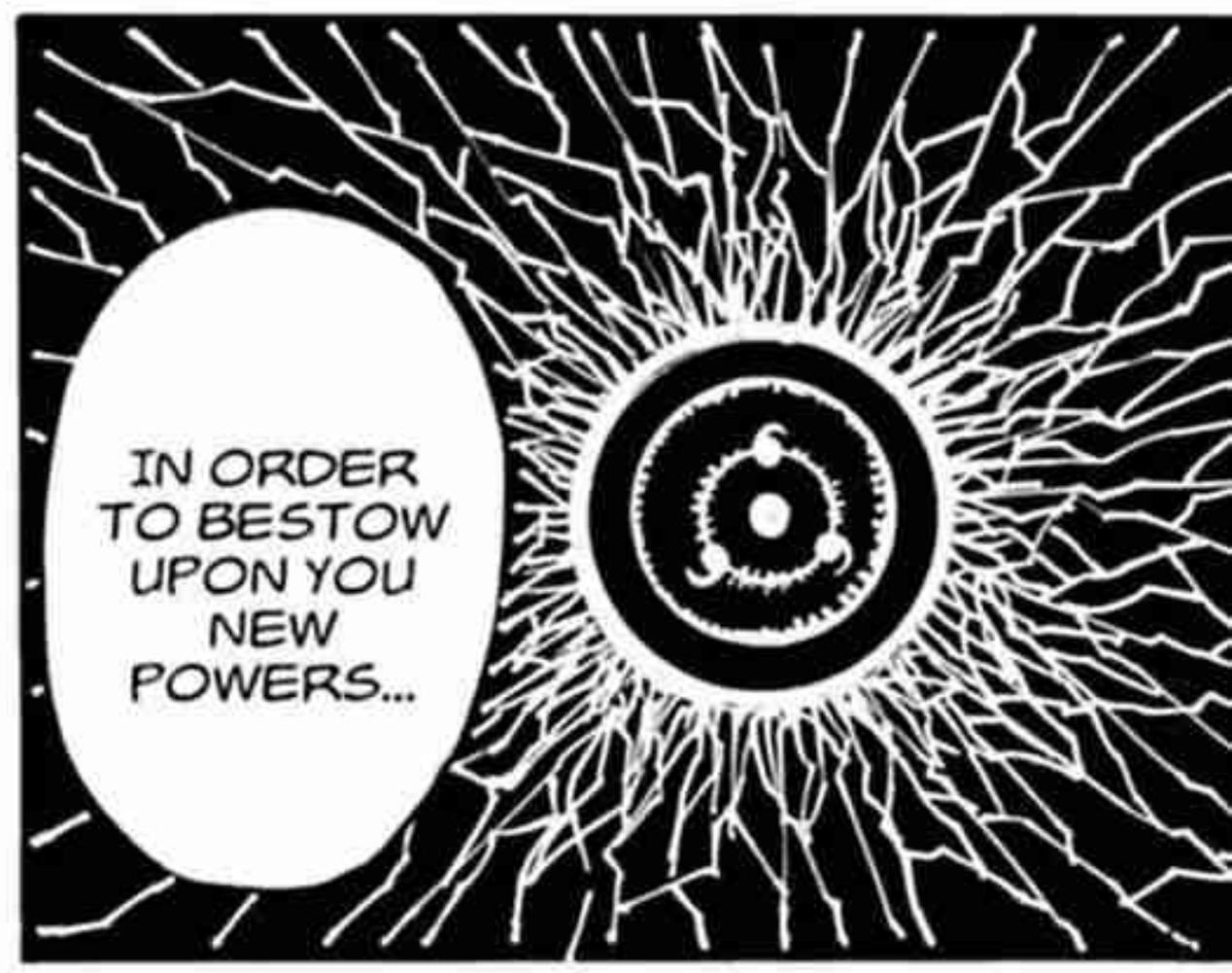
...AND HOPED IT WOULD MAKE YOU STRONGER.
HE GAVE YOU REASON TO SEEK REVENGE AGAINST HIM...

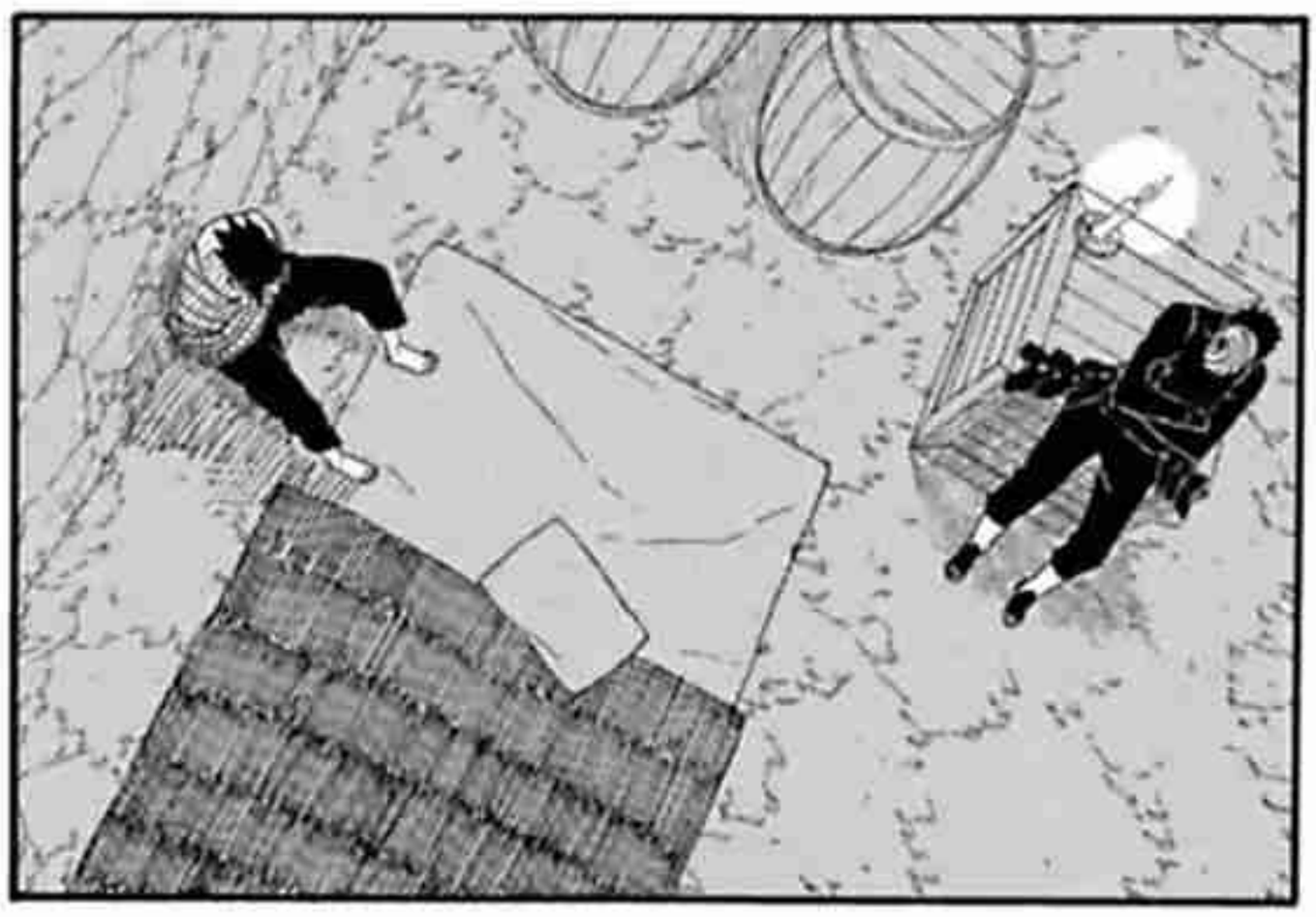
...FIND OUT THE TRUTH...
HE BEGGED THE HOKAGE TO MAKE SURE YOU WOULD NEVER...

...WAS A PROUD CLAN OF KONOHA-GAKURE...
HE WANTED YOU TO BELIEVE THAT UCHIHA...

...AND FROM THE MOMENT HE FLED THE VILLAGE, HE HAD RESIGNED HIMSELF TO BATTLING YOU TO HIS DEATH.



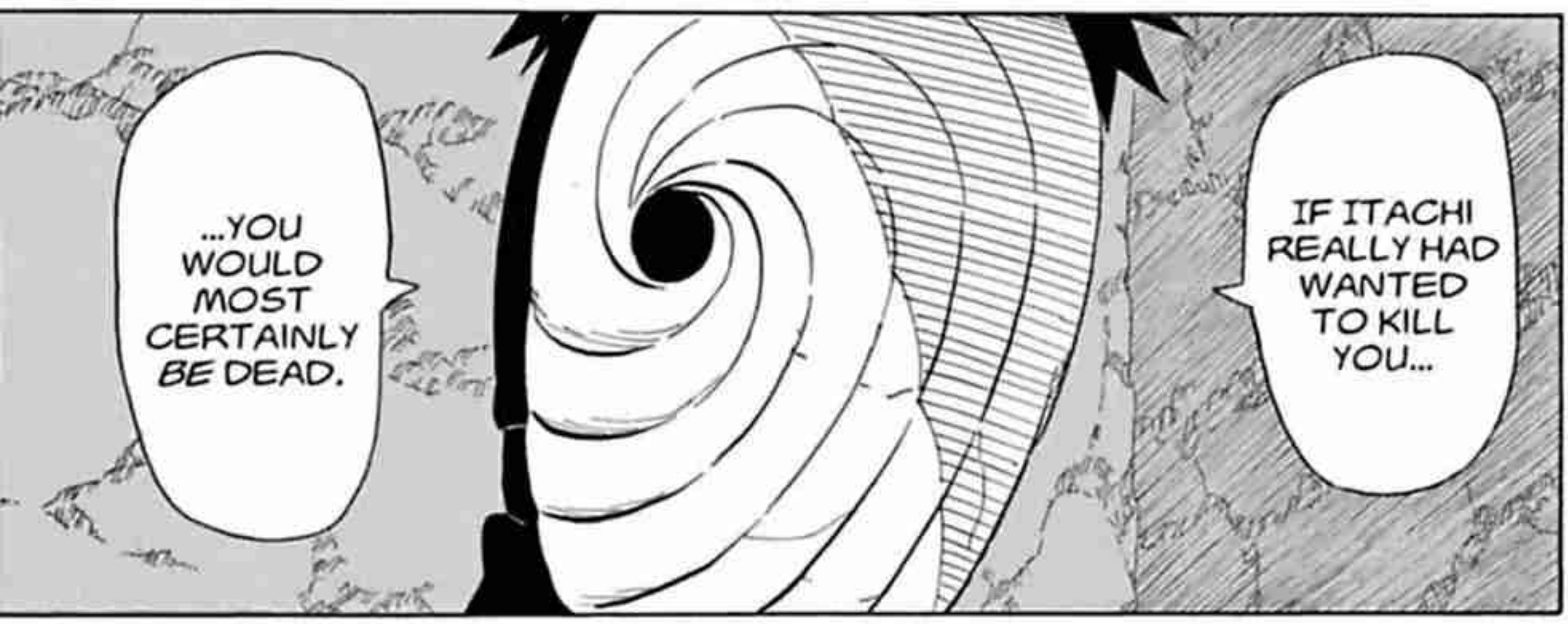




IT'S GOT TO BE A LIE...

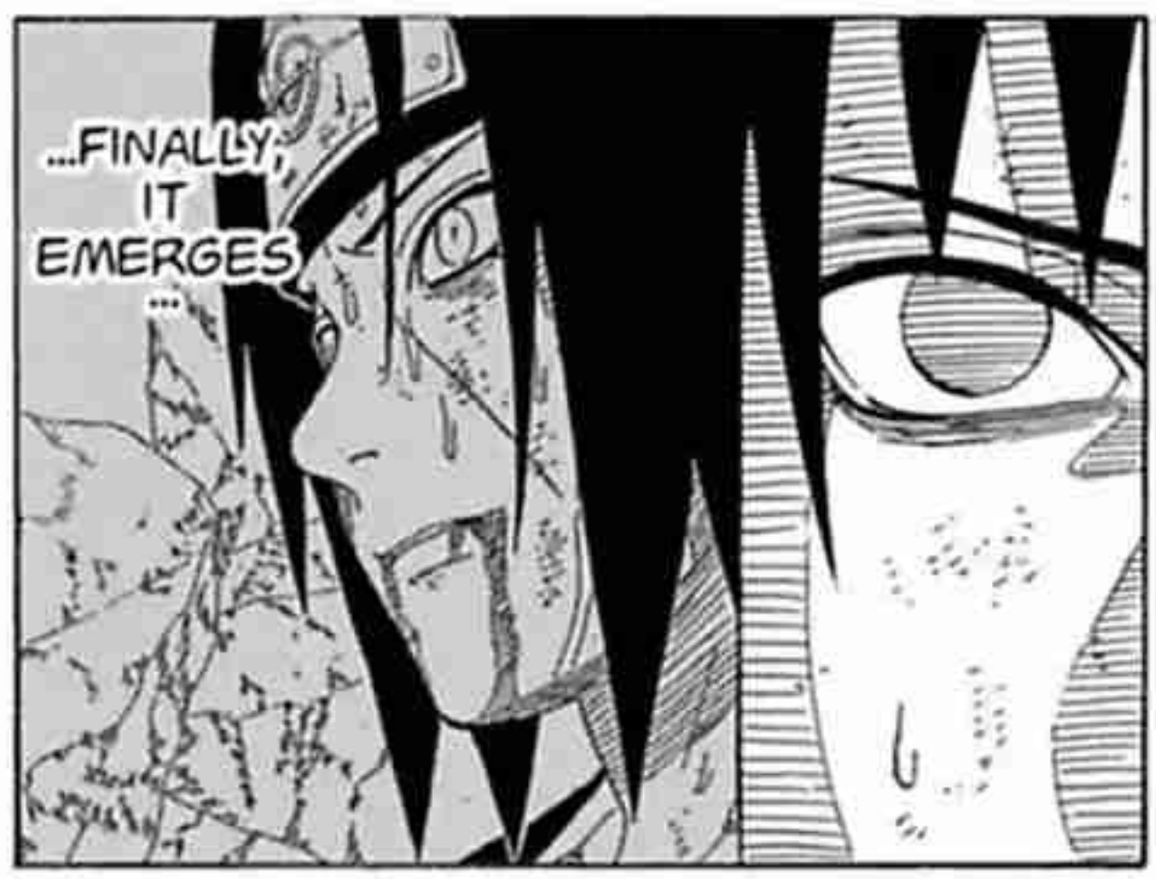
NARUTO

Number 401: Illusions



...!

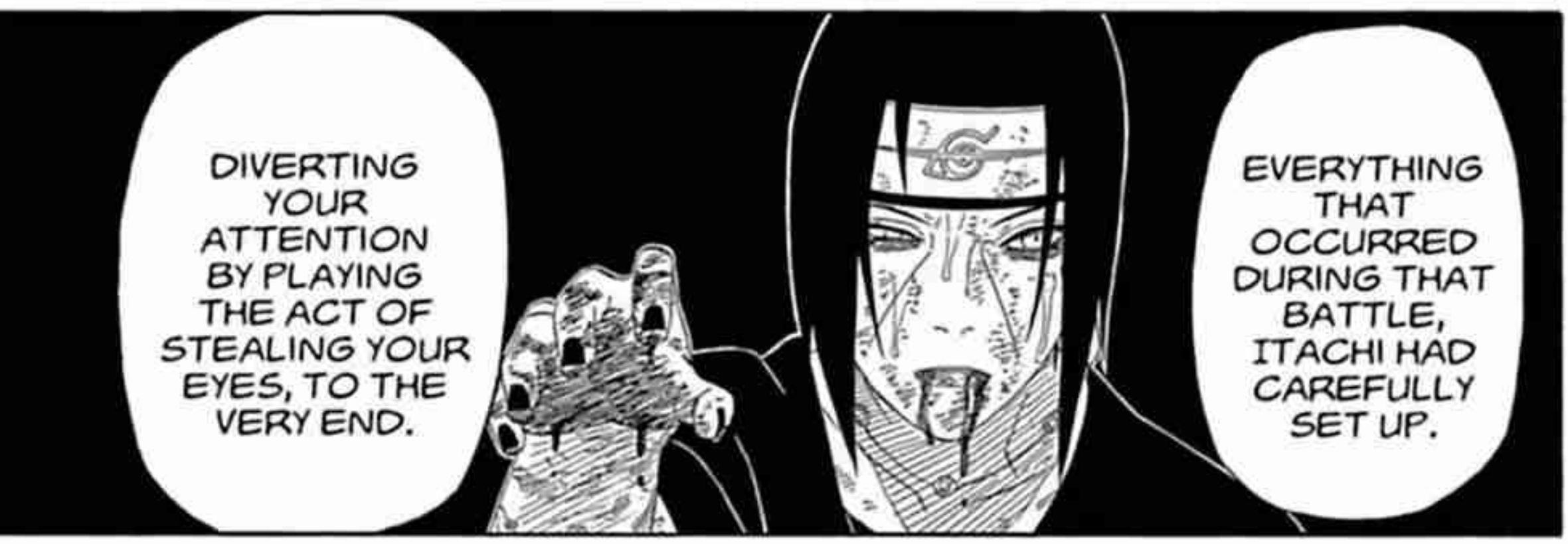
ITACHI HAD TO PRESSURE YOU DURING THAT BATTLE.
EVEN YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS WERE PART OF HIS CALCULATIONS.


...FINALLY, IT EMERGES...

I'M SURE YOU...
...ALREADY UNDERSTAND WHY?

SNIP
SNIP

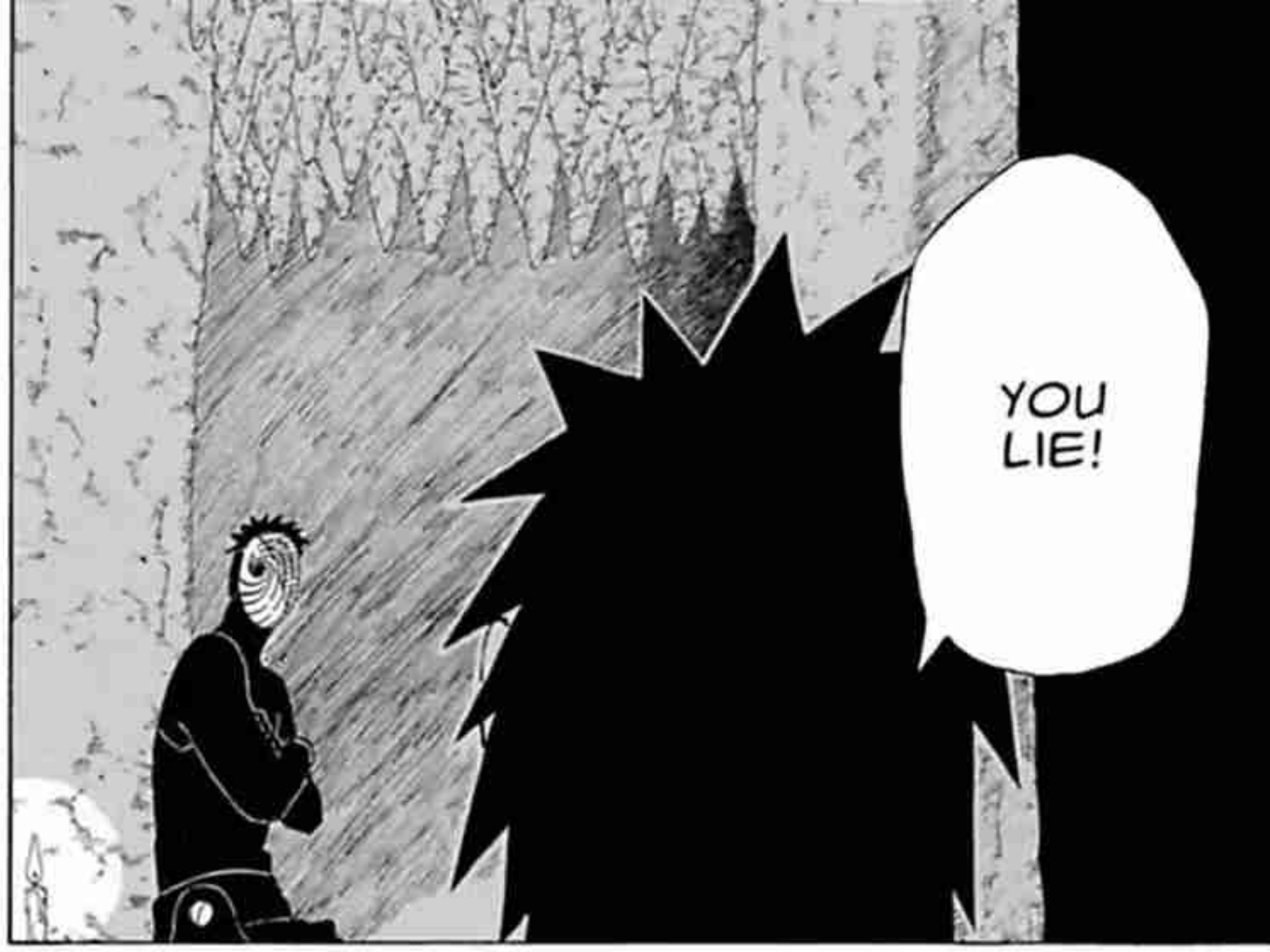
HE WANTED TO FREE YOU OF THE CURSE MARK AND OROCHI-MARU...
...BY CAUSING YOU TO LOSE THE ONE YOU WERE CLOSEST TO... THE BATTLE WOULD THEN AWAKEN YOUR MANGEKYO SHARINGAN.


DIVERTING YOUR ATTENTION BY PLAYING THE ACT OF STEALING YOUR EYES, TO THE VERY END.
EVERYTHING THAT OCCURRED DURING THAT BATTLE, ITACHI HAD CAREFULLY SET UP.

YOU'RE SEEING THE TRUTH...

...

...


YOU LIE!

BUT THAT TOO, THE FOURTH HOKAGE STOPPED. IN SHORT...
SIXTEEN YEARS AGO... WHEN NINE TAILS ASSAULTED KONOHA, THAT WAS MADARA'S DOING, OF COURSE.

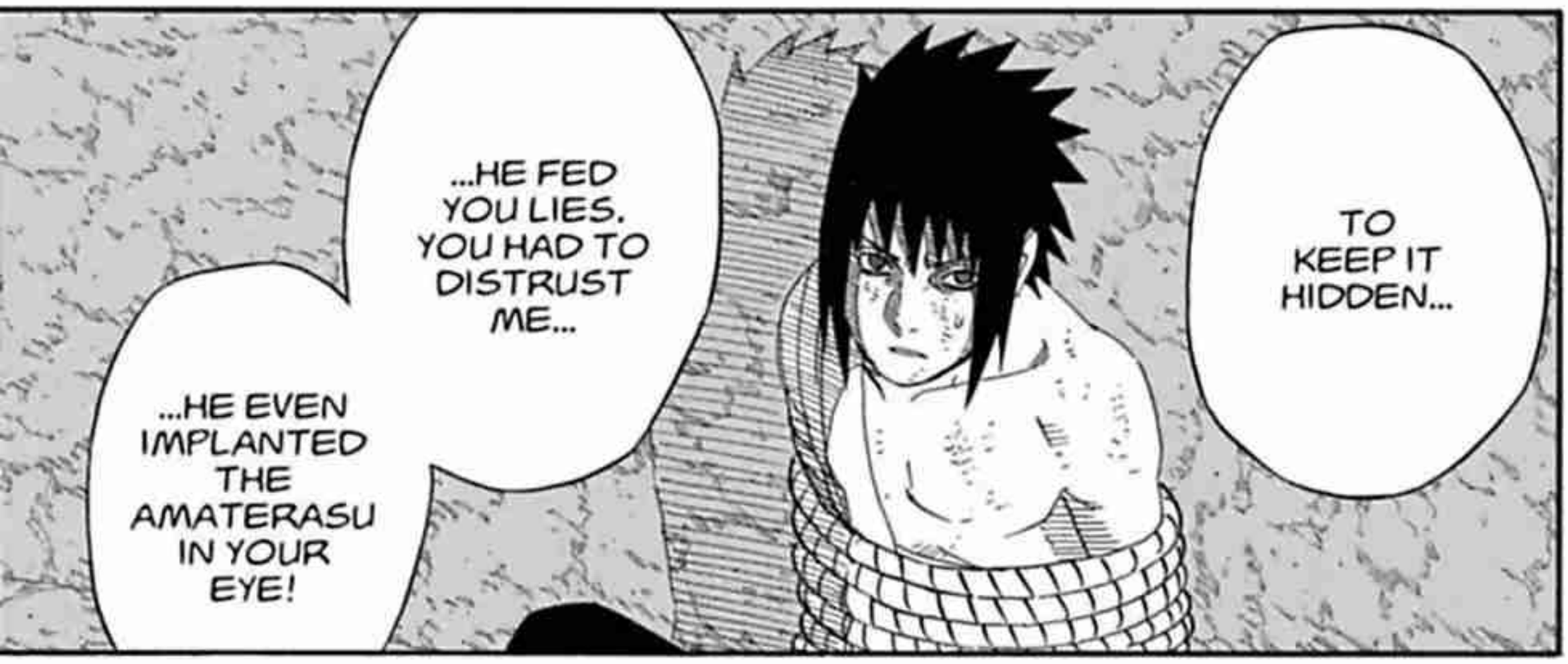
ITACHI SAID IT WAS ALL YOUR DOING!
YOU SENT NINE TAILS TO ASSAULT THE VILLAGE!

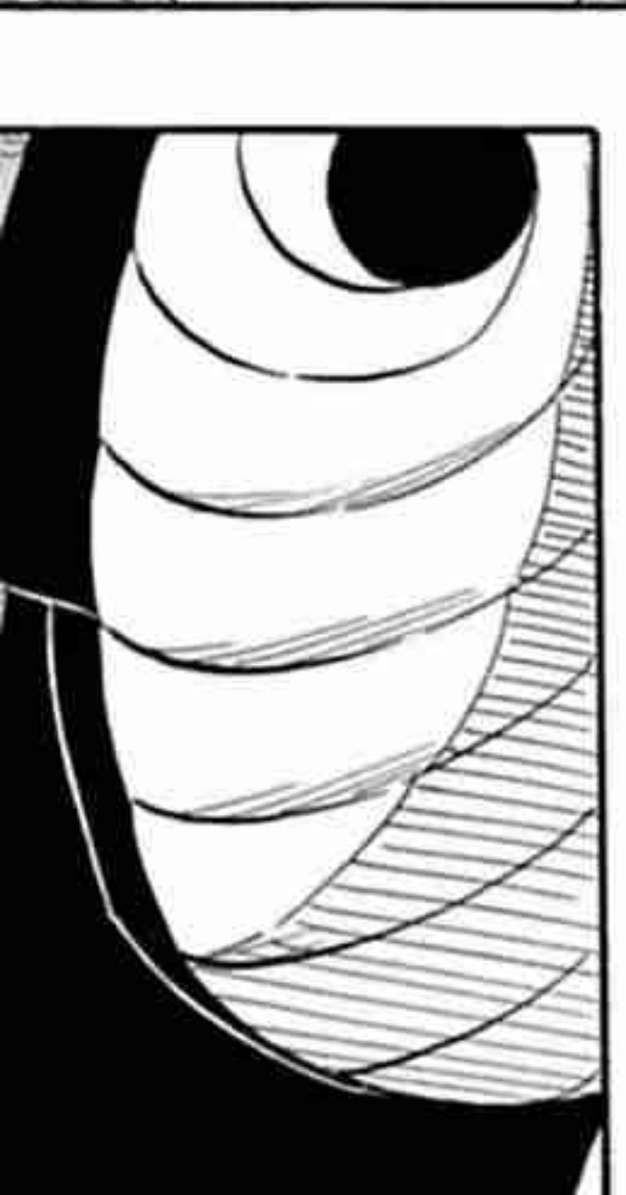
...WHO SHALL SURPASS MADARA AND APPROACH BECOMING THE ULTIMATE SHINOBI.
...I AM THE ONE...

...HE IS NOT WORTHY OR CAPABLE OF GRASPING UCHIHA'S TRUE GREAT-NESS.
MADARA IS A BITTER, DEFEATED DOG...

ITACHI FEARED YOU SOMEHOW FINDING OUT THE TRUTH.
THAT'S ITACHI'S LIE... I TOLD YOU.

AND JOINED WITH ITACHI TO TOY WITH OUR CLAN!!
YOU LAID FALSE CHARGES AGAINST UCHIHA!


...HE EVEN IMPLANTED THE AMATERASU IN YOUR EYE!
...HE FED YOU LIES. YOU HAD TO DISTRUST ME...
TO KEEP IT HIDDEN...



HE'S A CRIMINAL. HE SLAUGHTERED OUR CLAN AND BECAME AKATSUKI!
HE'S... ITACHI'S EVIL!

NO... I WON'T BE-LIEVE IT!

...!

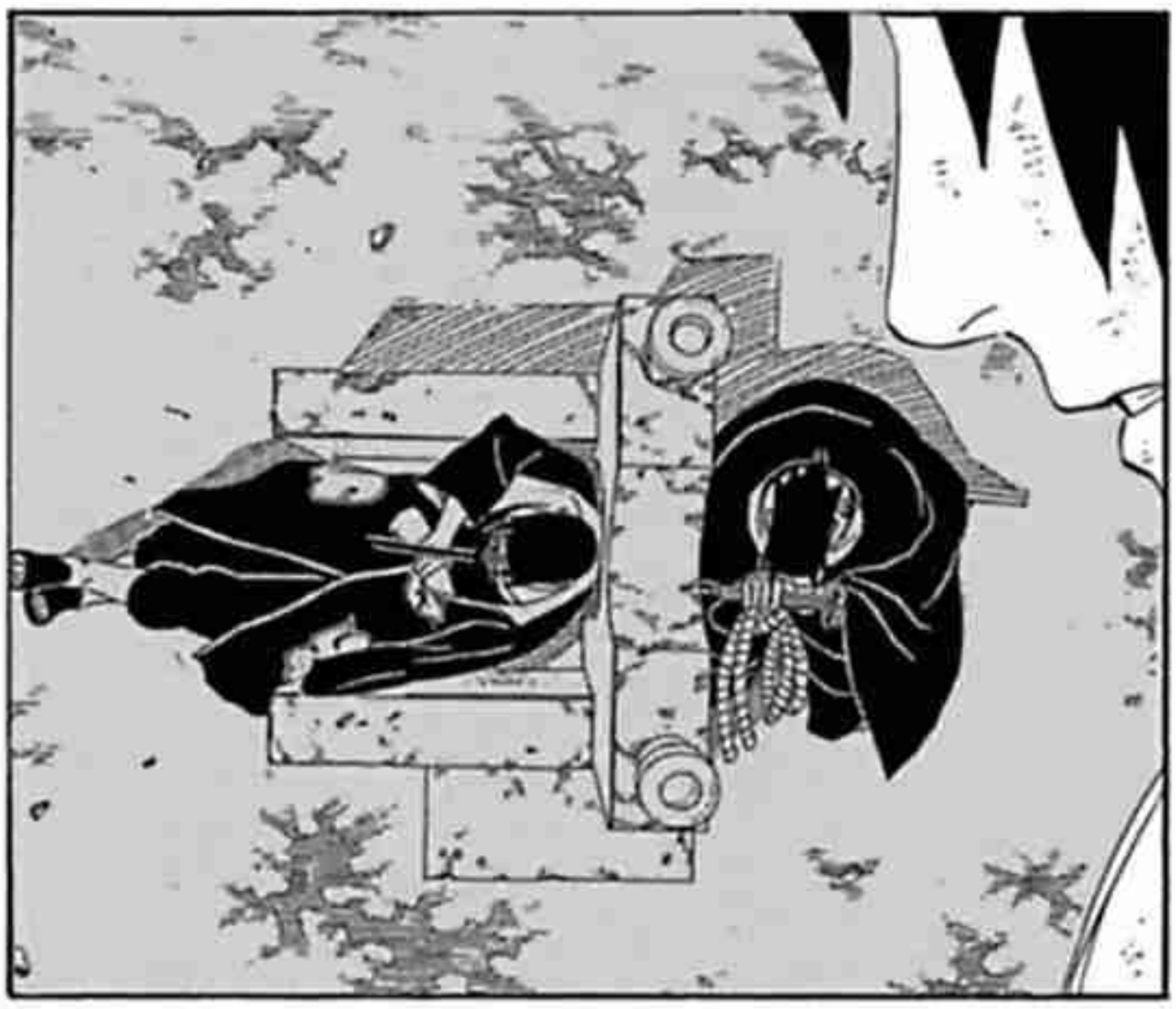
HE ALWAYS HAD KONOHA'S WELFARE FORE-MOST ON HIS MIND.

AS WELL AS YOURS...

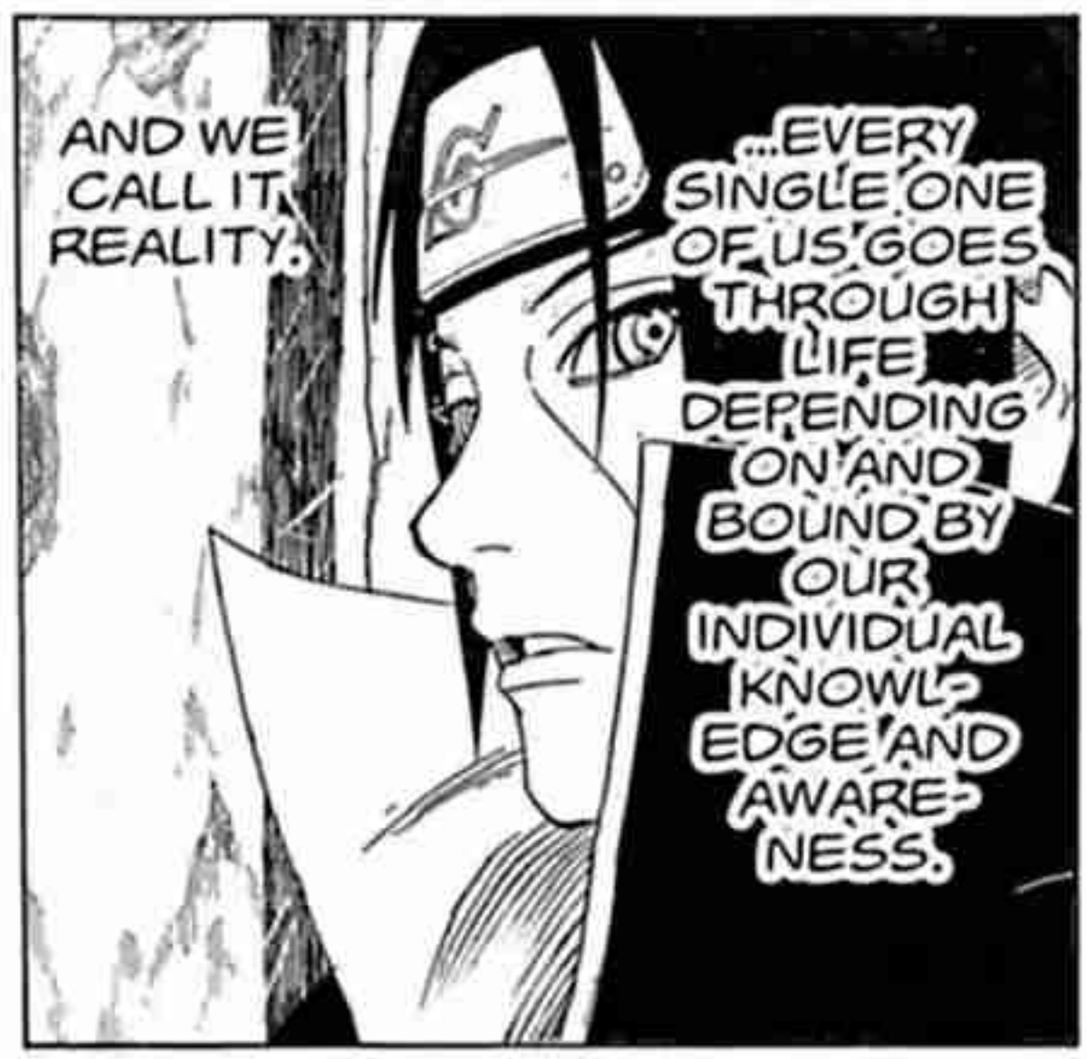
HE TOOK THE BURDEN ON HIMSELF, FLED HIS BIRTH VILLAGE...
...BECAME AKATSUKI, AND SPIED ON THE ORGANIZA-TION THAT THREATENED HIS VILLAGE, FROM THE INSIDE...

ITACHI APPEARED IN KONOHA AFTER THE DEATH OF YOUR PROTECTOR, THE THIRD HOKAGE...

...TO REMIND DANZO AND THE COUNSELORS HE WAS STILL ALIVE.



WE ALL LIVE INSIDE OUR OWN FANTASIES. DON'T YOU THINK?
HOWEVER, BOTH KNOWL-EDGE AND AWARENESS ARE EQUIV-OCAL. ONE'S REALITY MIGHT BE AN ILLUSION.


AND WE CALL IT REALITY.
...EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US GOES THROUGH LIFE DEPENDING ON AND BOUND BY OUR INDIVIDUAL KNOWL-EDGE AND AWARE-NESS.

MY EYES ARE NOT THE SAME AS THEY WERE BEFORE!
MY SHARINGAN CAN SEE THROUGH GENJUTSU!

...HOW MUCH CAN YOU ACTUALLY SEE?
THOSE SHARINGAN...

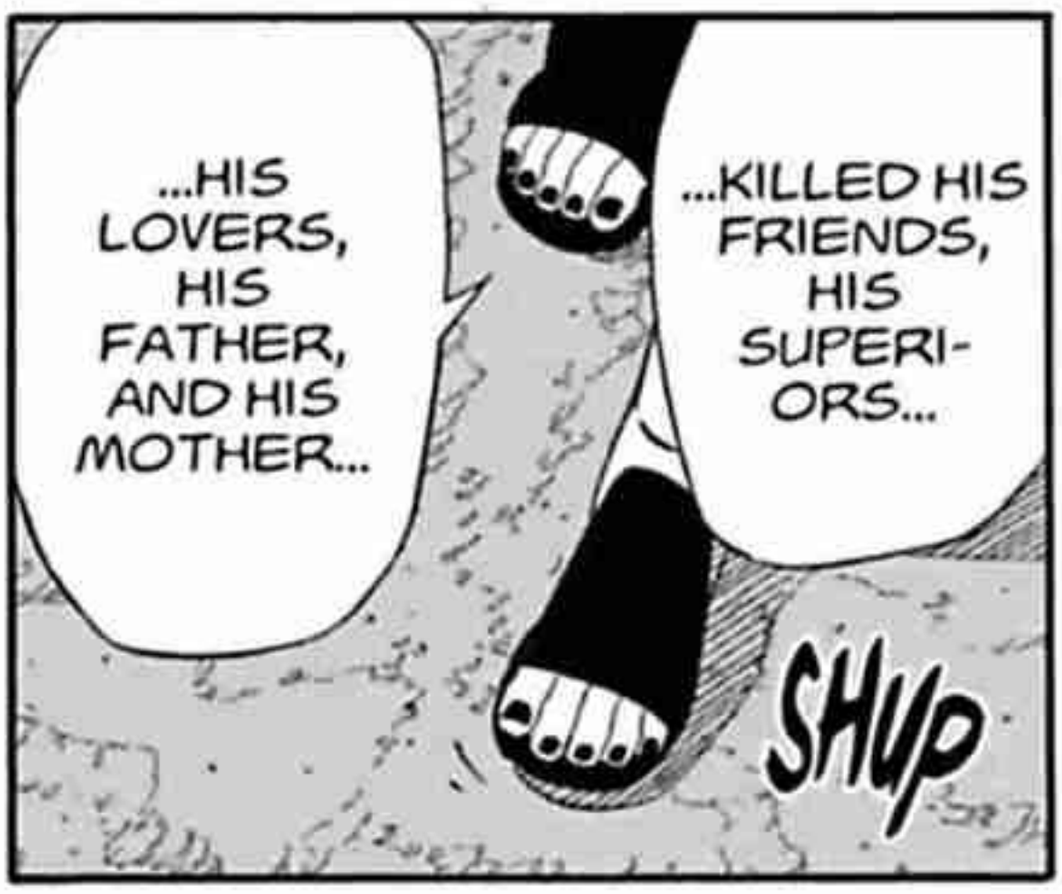
I'LL ACCEPT THOSE WORDS, FOR NOW, AT LEAST.

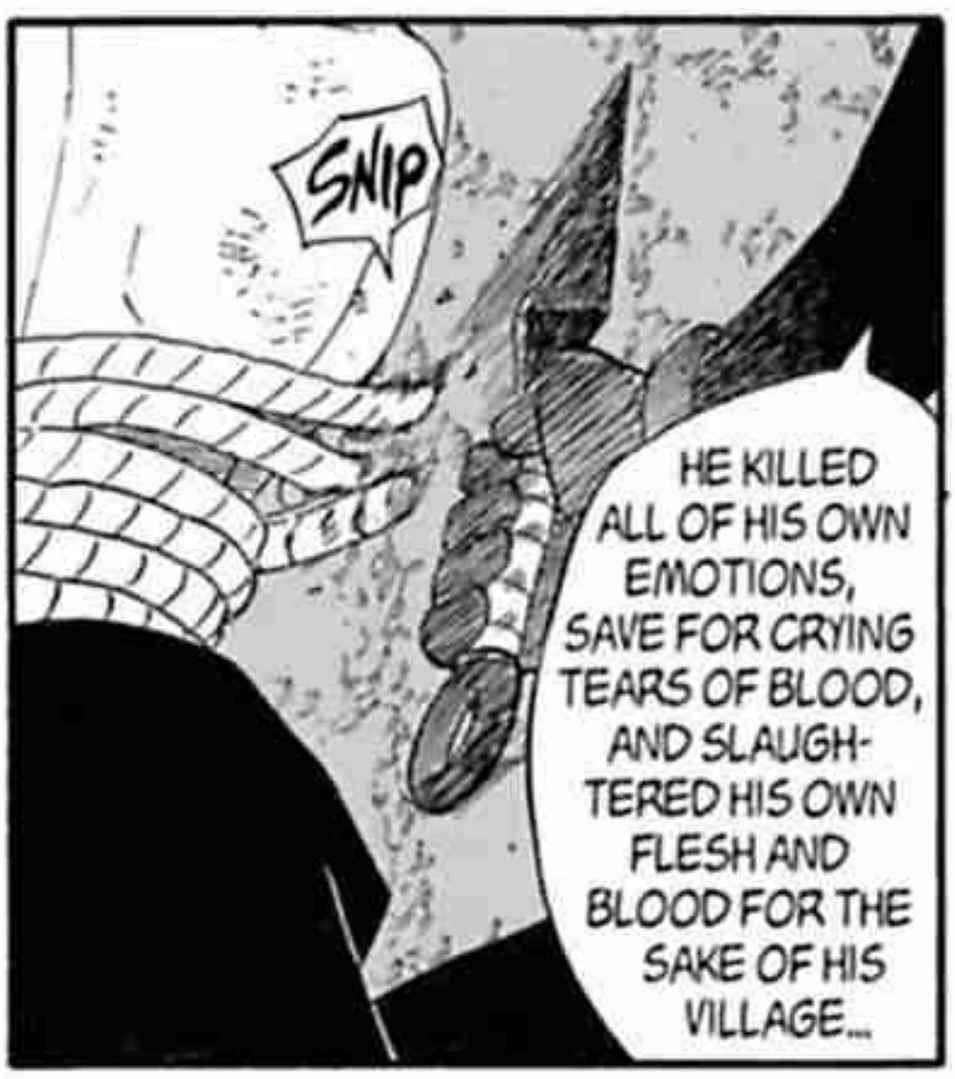
WELL...
HEH... BULLISH WORDS AND ATTITUDE, AS ALWAYS.

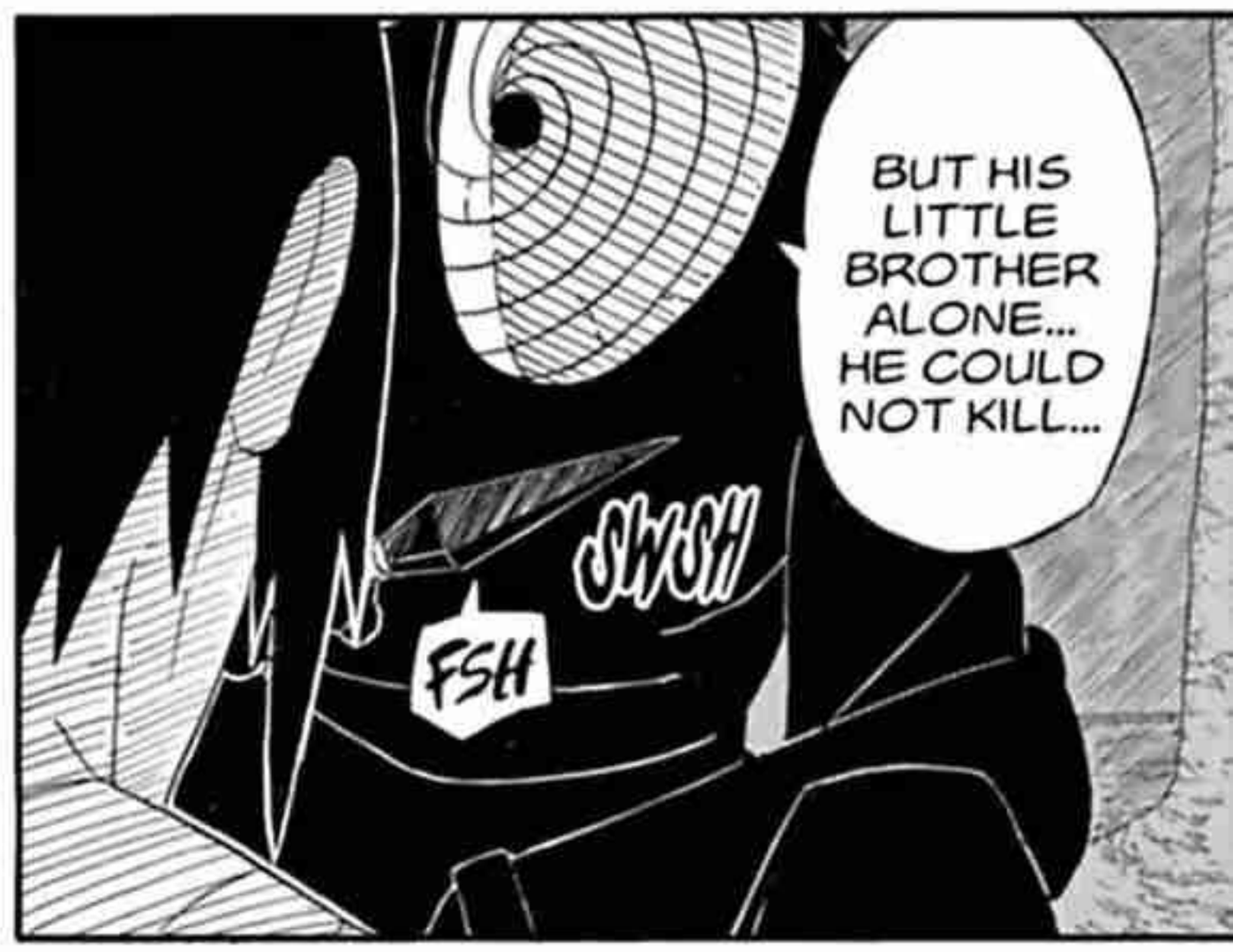
FSH

YOUR EYES DIDN'T SEE THROUGH ITACHI AT ALL.

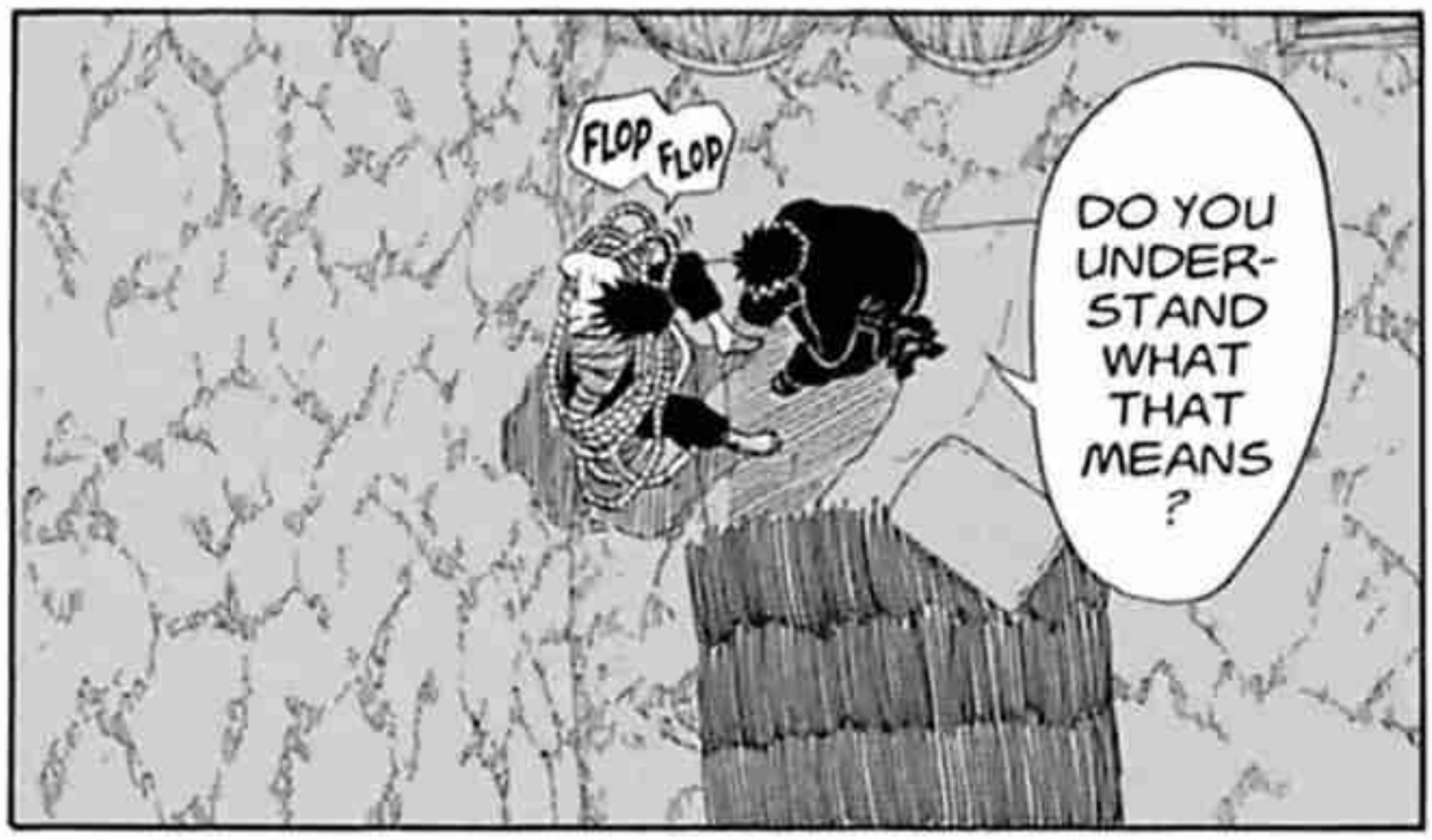
NOR A SINGLE ONE OF HIS ILLUSIONS.

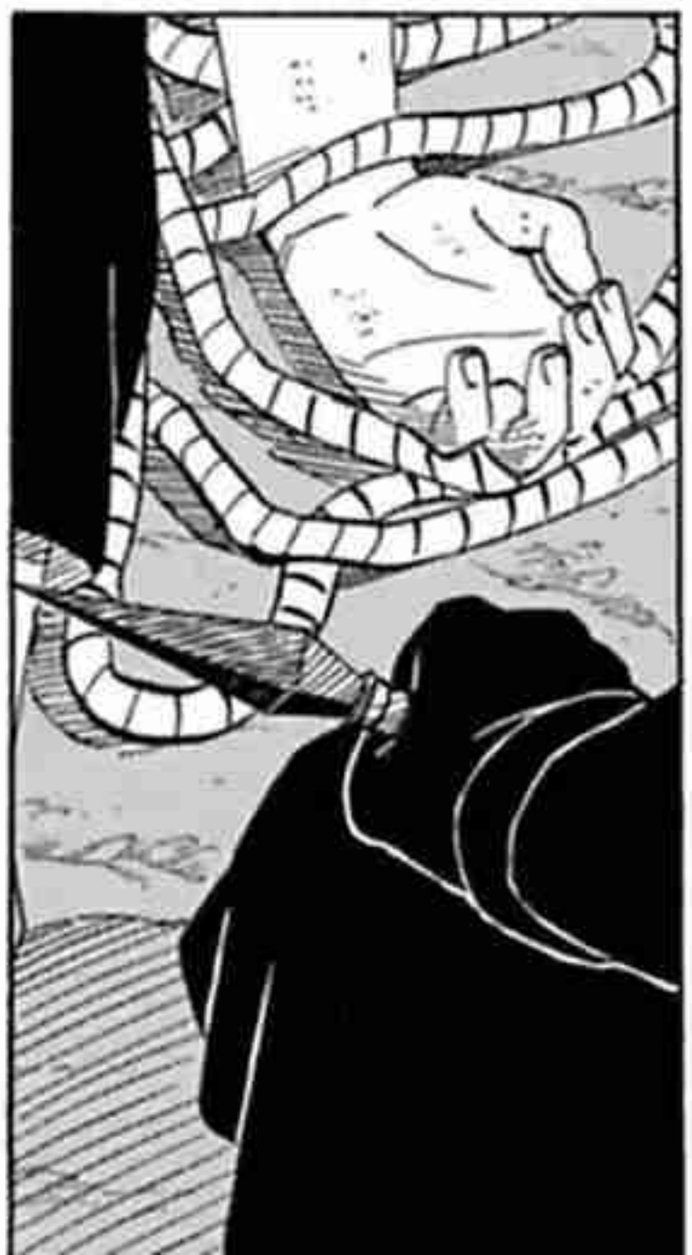


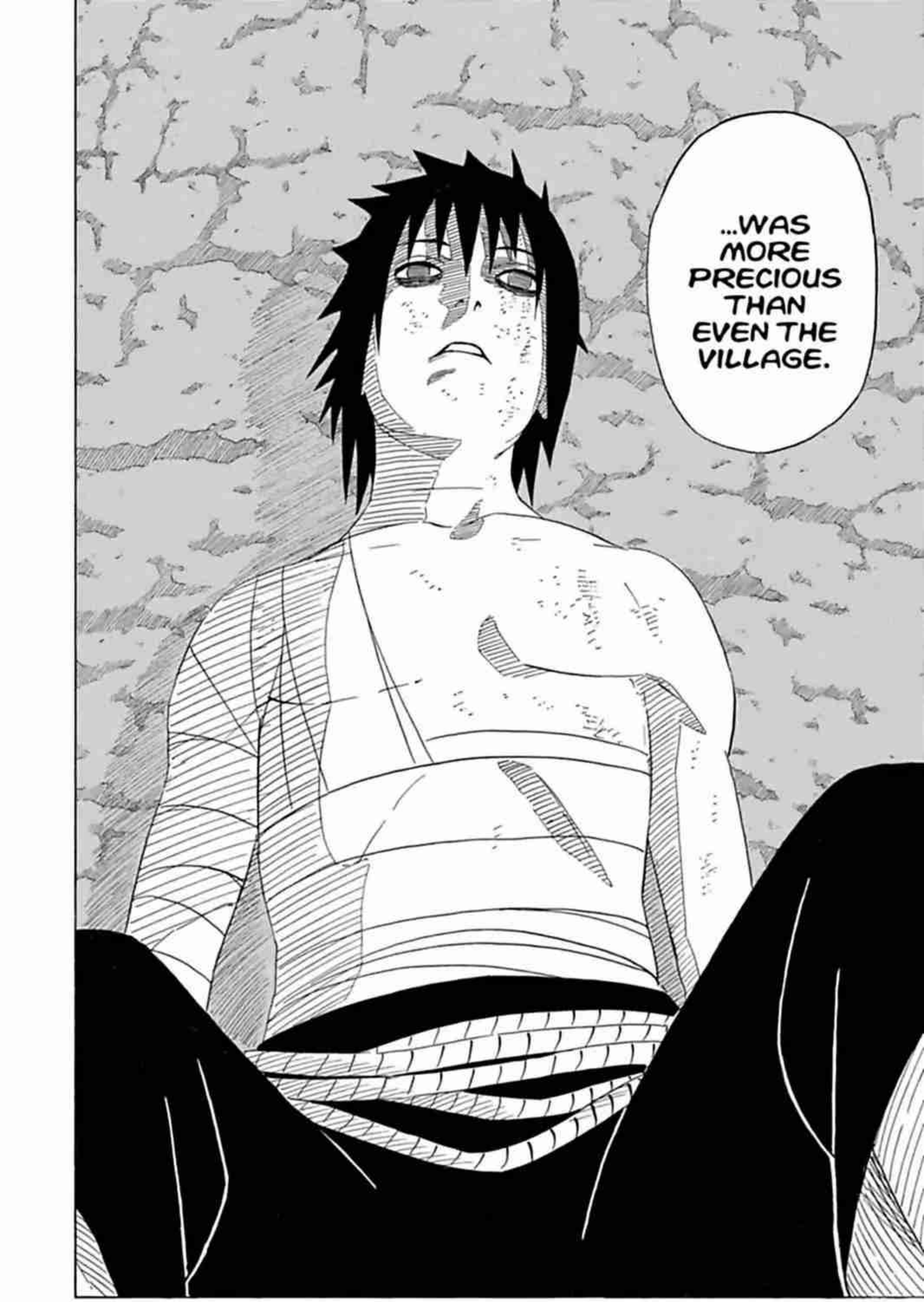




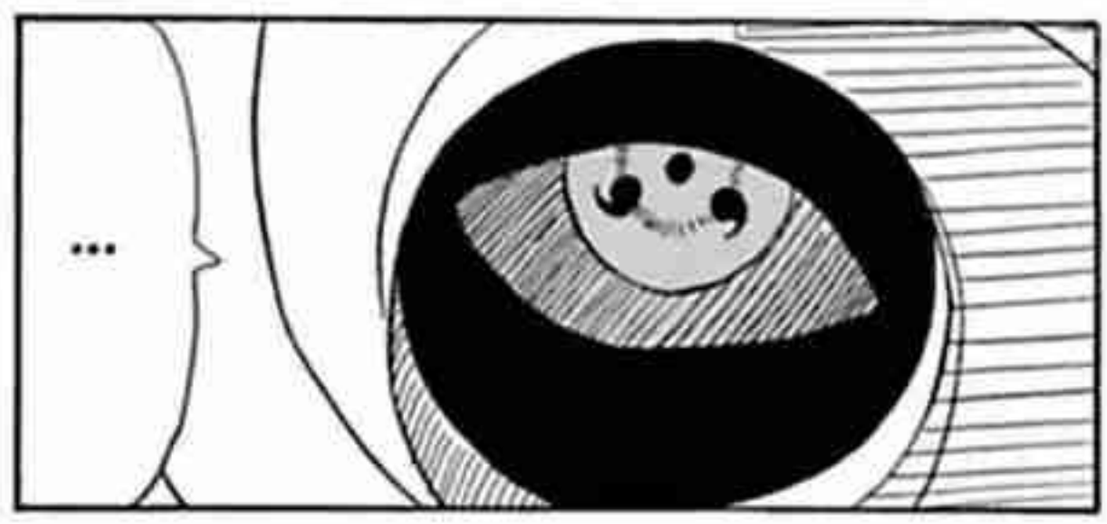
...BUT HE JUST COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO KILL YOU.






...WAS MORE PRECIOUS THAN EVEN THE VILLAGE.

...IN ORDER TO CONFER UPON YOU NEW POWERS...


...

...NO, EVEN AFTER HE DIED...
UP UNTIL THE VERY MOMENT OF HIS DEATH...

...AND BY ALLOWING YOU TO DEFEAT HIM...

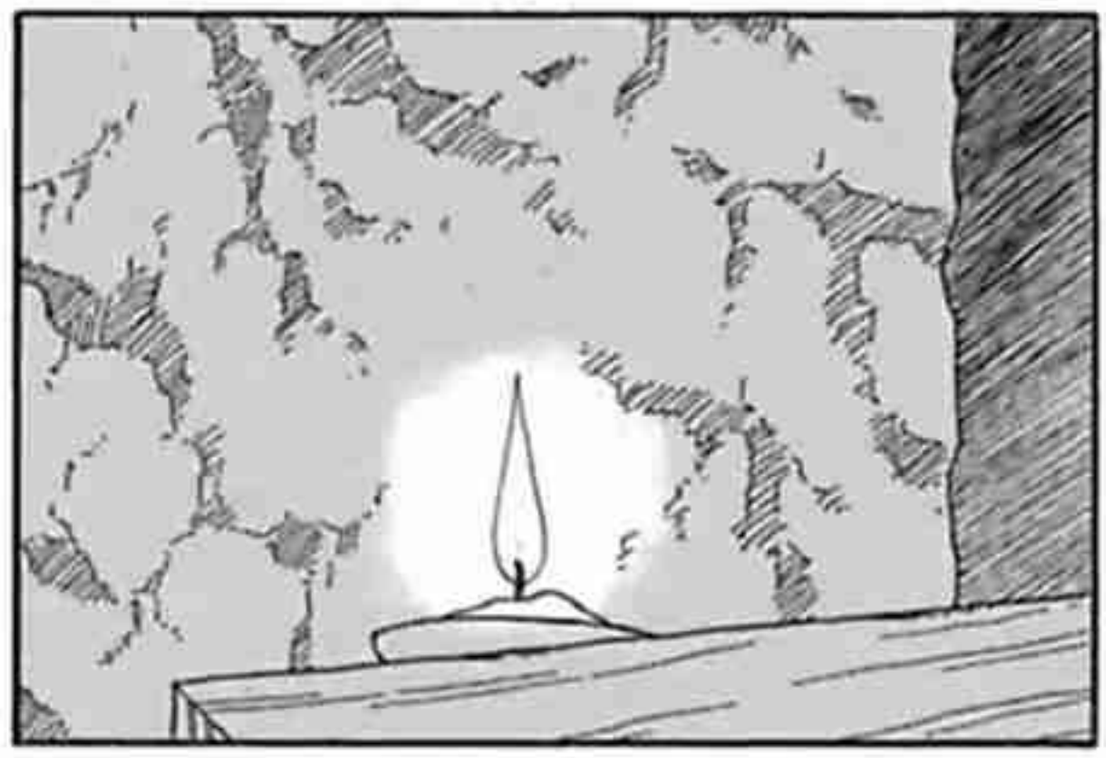
...BY MAKING YOU OUT TO BE KONOHA'S HERO.
...HE ACHIEVED REVENGE AGAINST THE UCHIHA CLAN...

...HE FORCEFULLY PROLONGED HIS LIFE WITH MEDICATION...

RAVAGED BY ILLNESS, PAINFULLY AWARE OF HIS IMPENDING DEATH...

...AND DIE IN FRONT OF YOU.

BECAUSE HE HAD TO FIGHT YOU...



KAVOOSH

SPLOSH

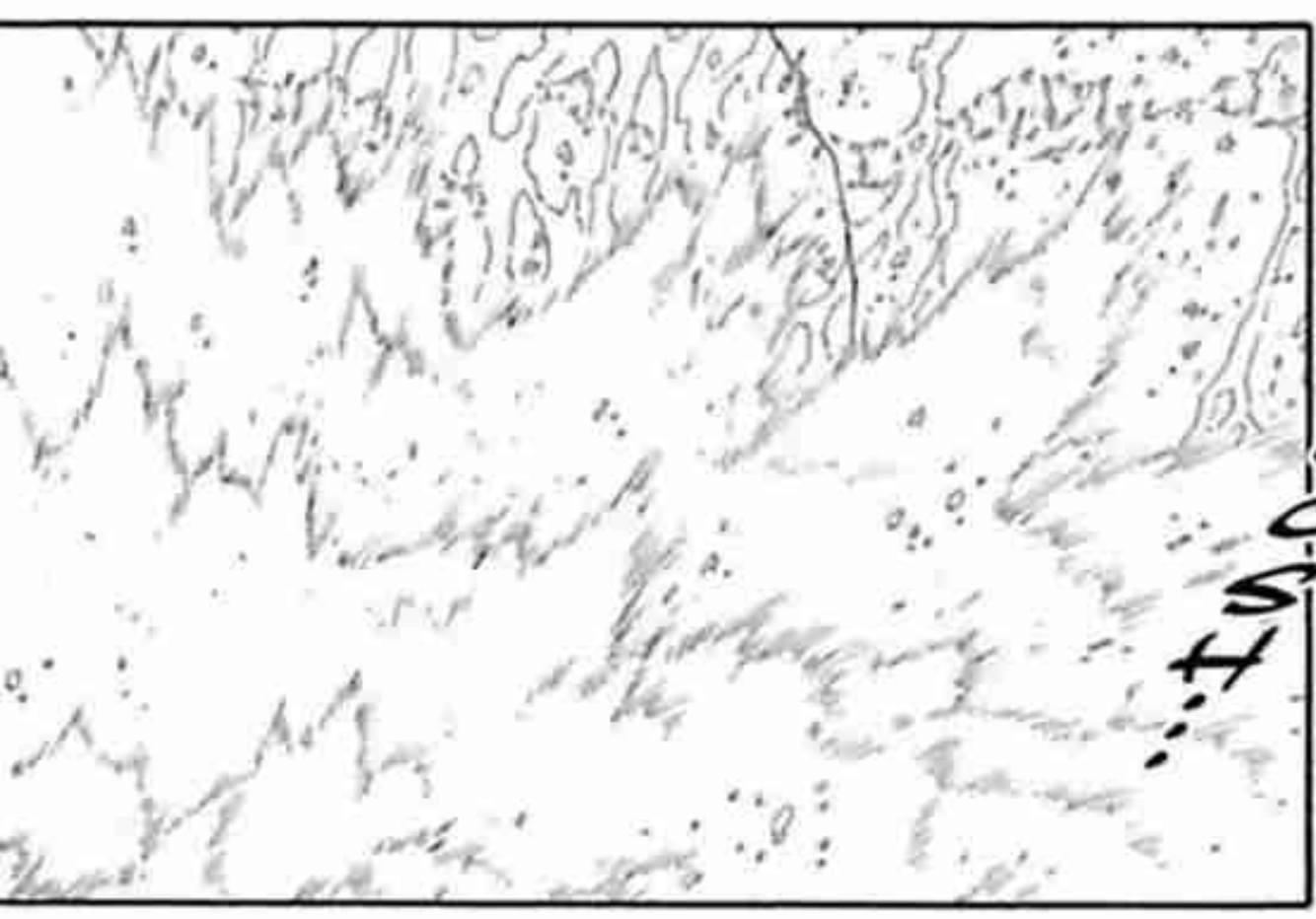
...AND ITACHI STILL DIED WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.
ACCEPTED DISGRACE IN THE PLACE OF HONOR... AND HATE IN THE PLACE OF LOVE...

FOR THE PEACE OF KONOHA VILLAGE, AND MOST OF ALL FOR YOU, UCHIHA SASUKE...
...HE DESIRED TO DIE A CRIMINAL AND A TRAITOR.

READ THIS WAY
...Footsoldiers
HE BE-QUEATHED TO YOU THE UCHIHA NAME...
...STILL FOOLING YOU TO THE VERY END...

NARUTO

Number 402: Final Words



BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP

BIG BROTHER!

!

READ
THIS
WAY

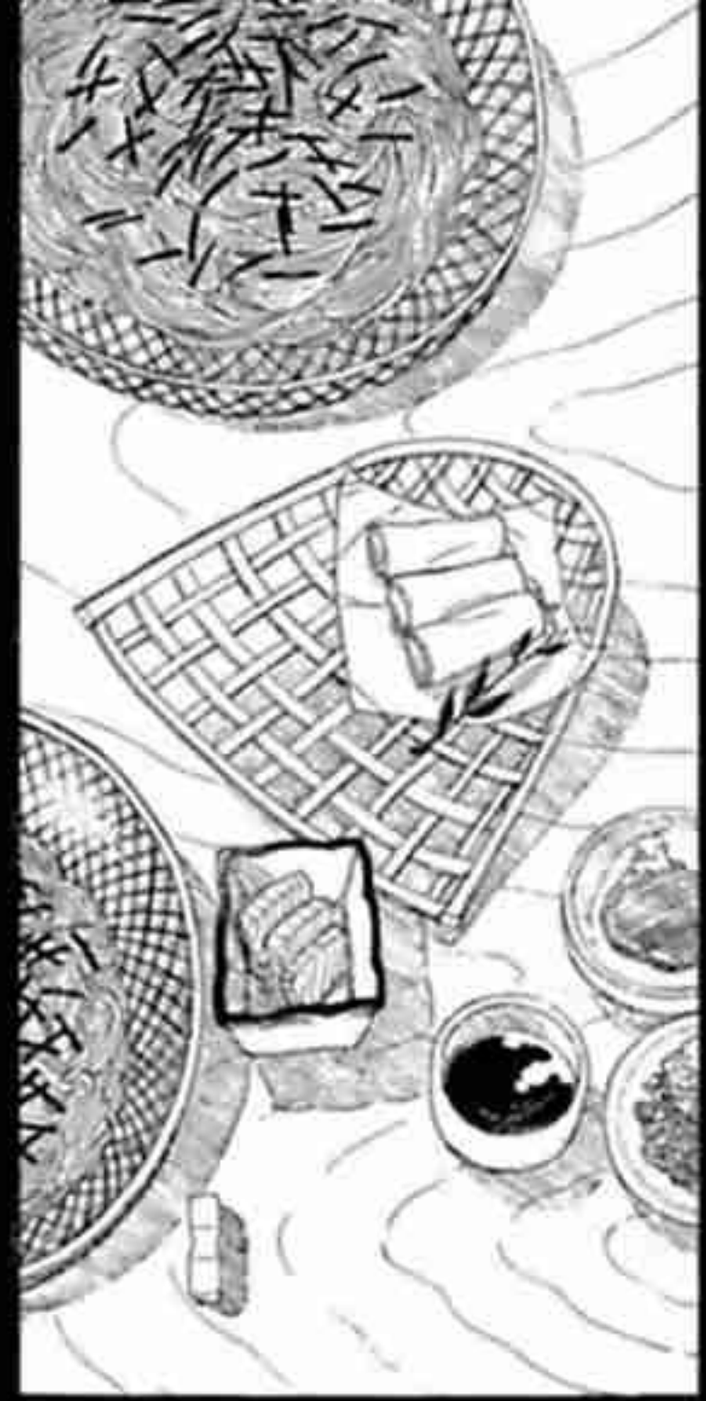
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL DO MY HOMEWORK LATER... BESIDES, IT'S EASY...
HEH HEH

!

VIVEET
VIVEET
I WONDER WHERE HE HID?

BUT...
GOOD TRY, SASUKE.
FWP

!
FOUND YOU!
SHUP



BO
OF
...SORRY!
NO FAIR!!
HEY!

...BUT BIG BROTHER USED A DOPPEL-GANGER TO TRICK ME.
HEY, DAD! BIG BROTHER AND I PLAYED HIDE-AND-SEEK TODAY...
THAT'S CHEATING, ISN'T IT?!

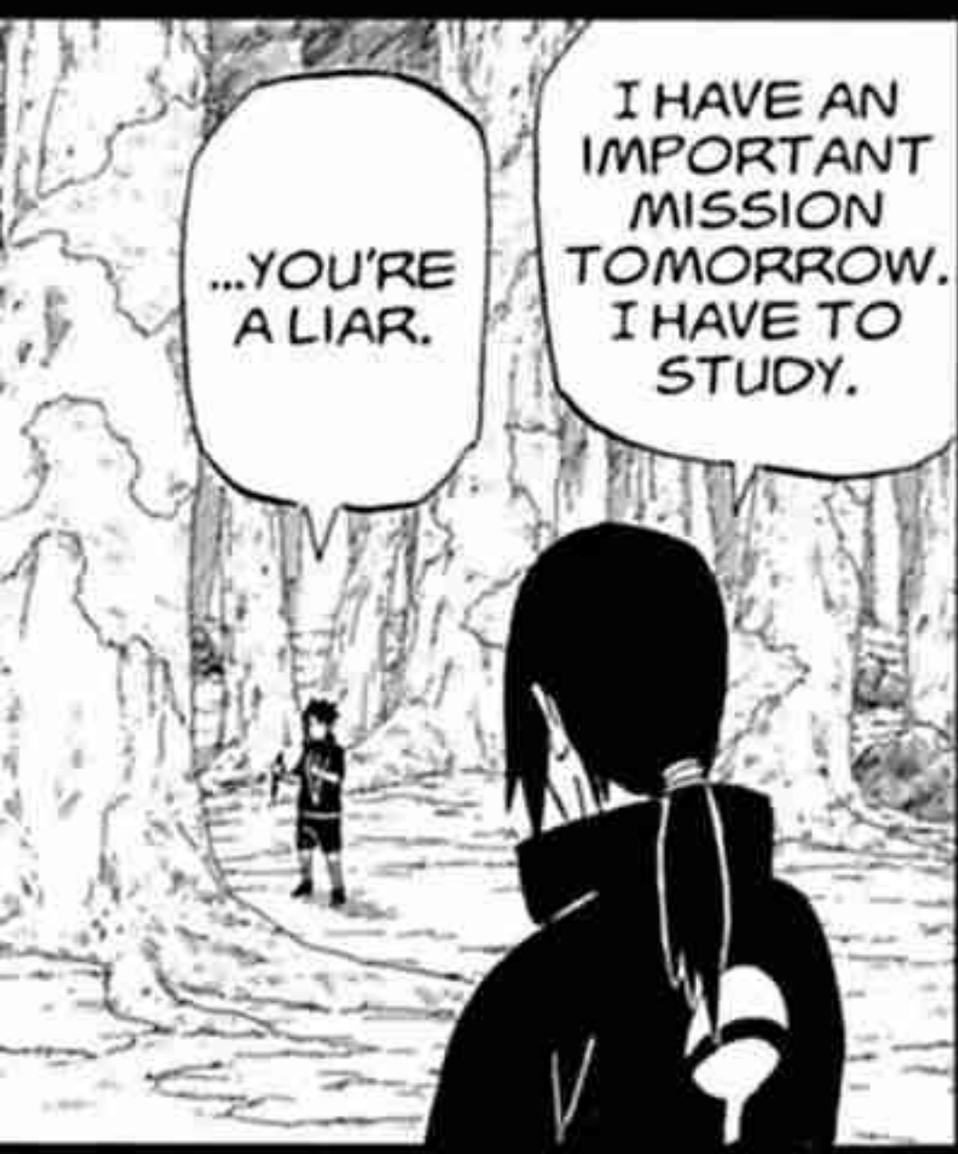
HOME-WORK!
BIG BROTHER, TEACH ME DOPPEL-GANGER JUTSU AFTER DINNER, OK?!

...

HO... YOU'VE MASTERED DOPPEL-GANGERS ALREADY?

AN-OTHER TIME.
SORRY, SASUKE.
TOK

FLUMP
ARGH ...


...YOU'RE A LIAR.
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION TOMORROW. I HAVE TO STUDY.

YOU PROMISED TO TEACH ME NEW SHURIKEN TECHNIQUES!

SASUKE, WE HAVE TO GO.

TAK

!
NMF

CH CH

SORRY, SASUKE.

ANOTHER TIME.

OW!

TOK

WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE AS MUCH TIME TO OUR-SELVES ANYMORE.

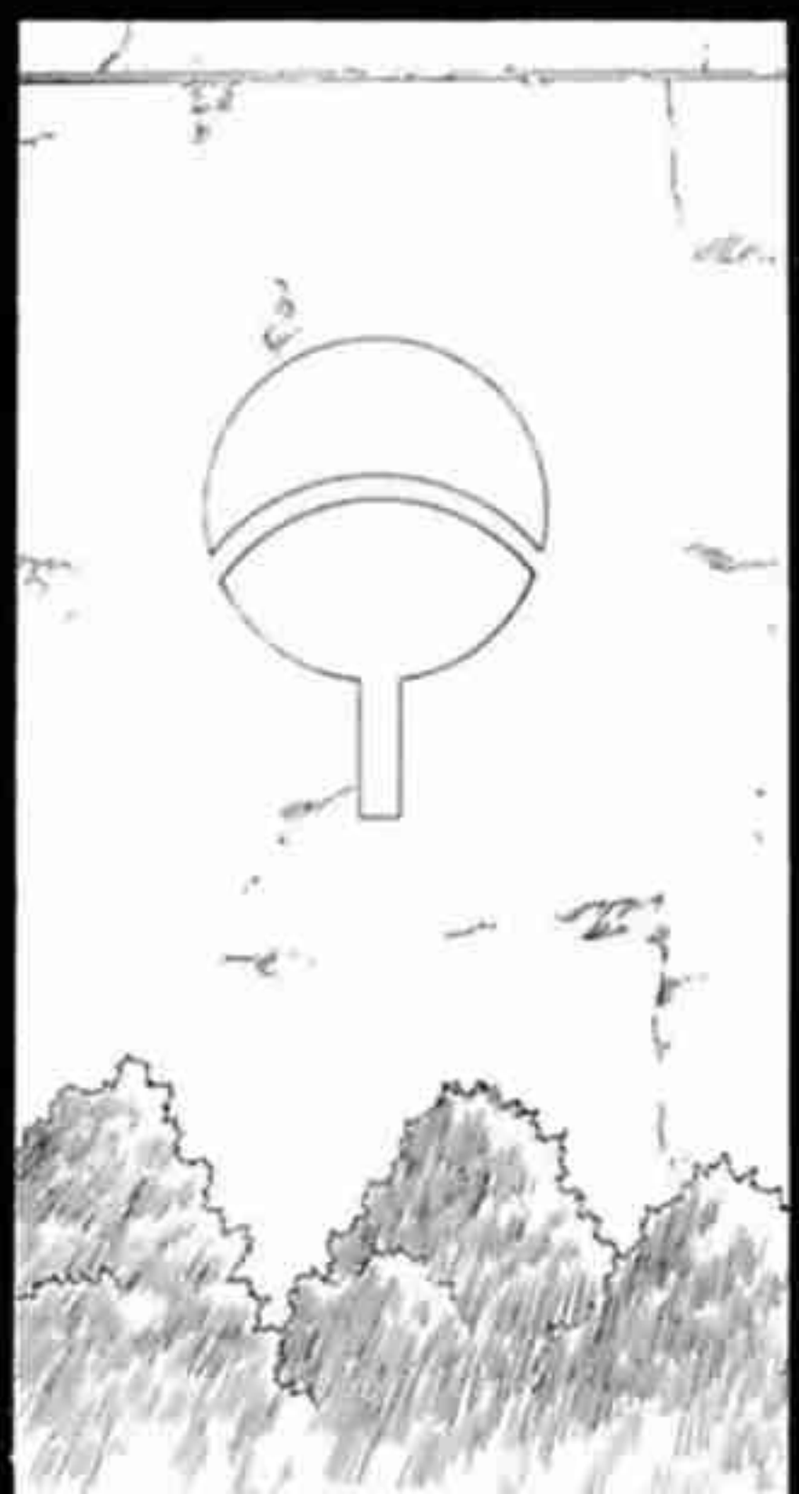
...BUT I'M GOING TO START GETTING ASSIGNED MISSIONS...
...AND YOU START THE NINJA ACADEMY TOMORROW, DON'T YOU?

SURE...
WILL YOU TRAIN WITH ME AGAIN, BIG BROTHER?

...AS LONG AS WE CAN STILL TRAIN JUST US ONCE IN A WHILE.
THAT'S OKAY...

...

I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE LIKE A WALL YOU NEED TO CLIMB OVER.
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.



BIG BROTHER ...

HELP ME WITH MY SHURIKEN JUTSU TODAY, PLEASE...
...
I'M BUSY... WHY DON'T YOU ASK FATHER?

...
TROT TROT

CH CH

BUT YOU'RE BETTER AT SHURIKEN JUTSU...
...WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TREAT ME LIKE SUCH A PEST?
EVEN I CAN TELL THAT.

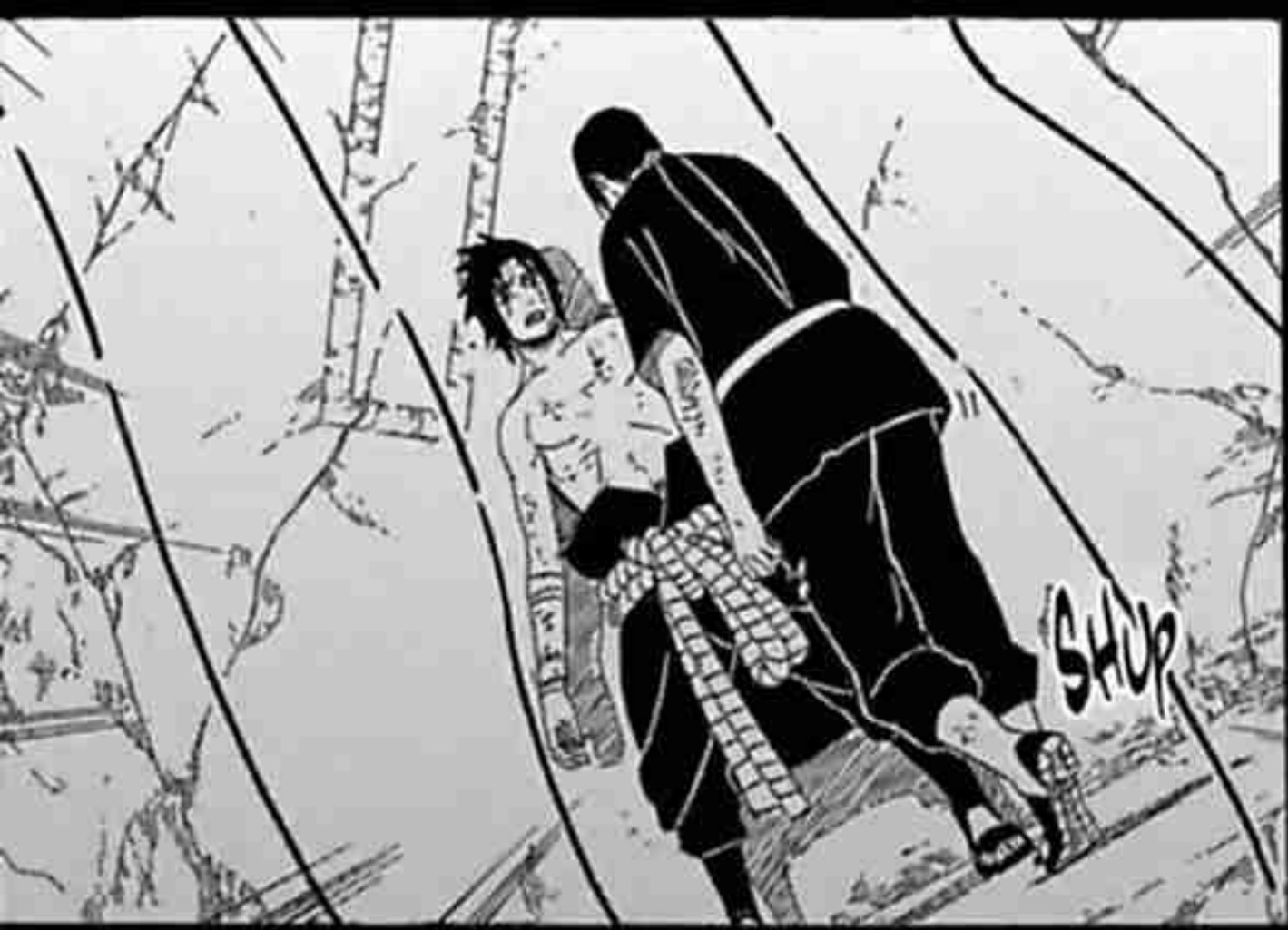
TOK

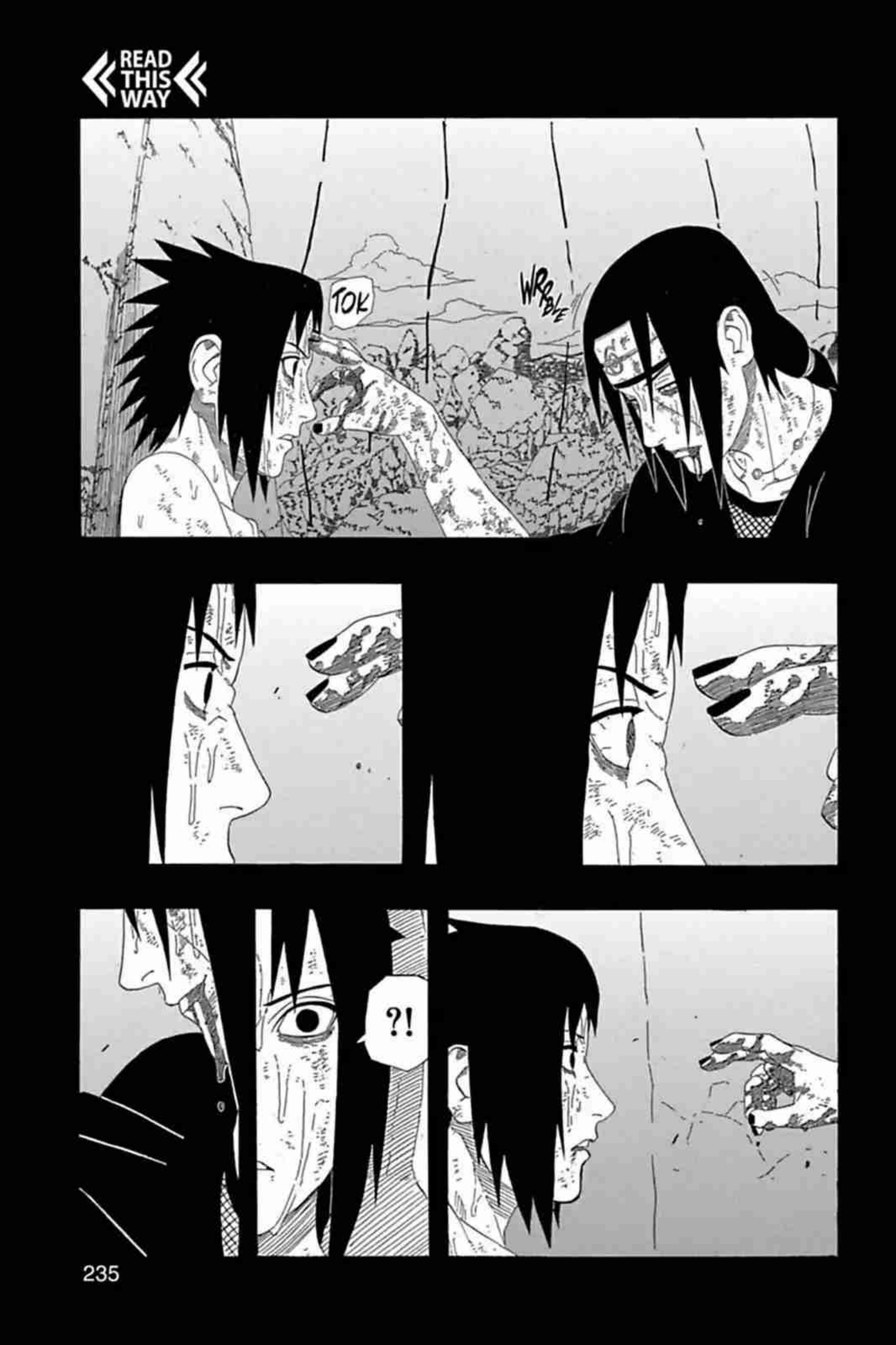
SORRY, SASUKE.

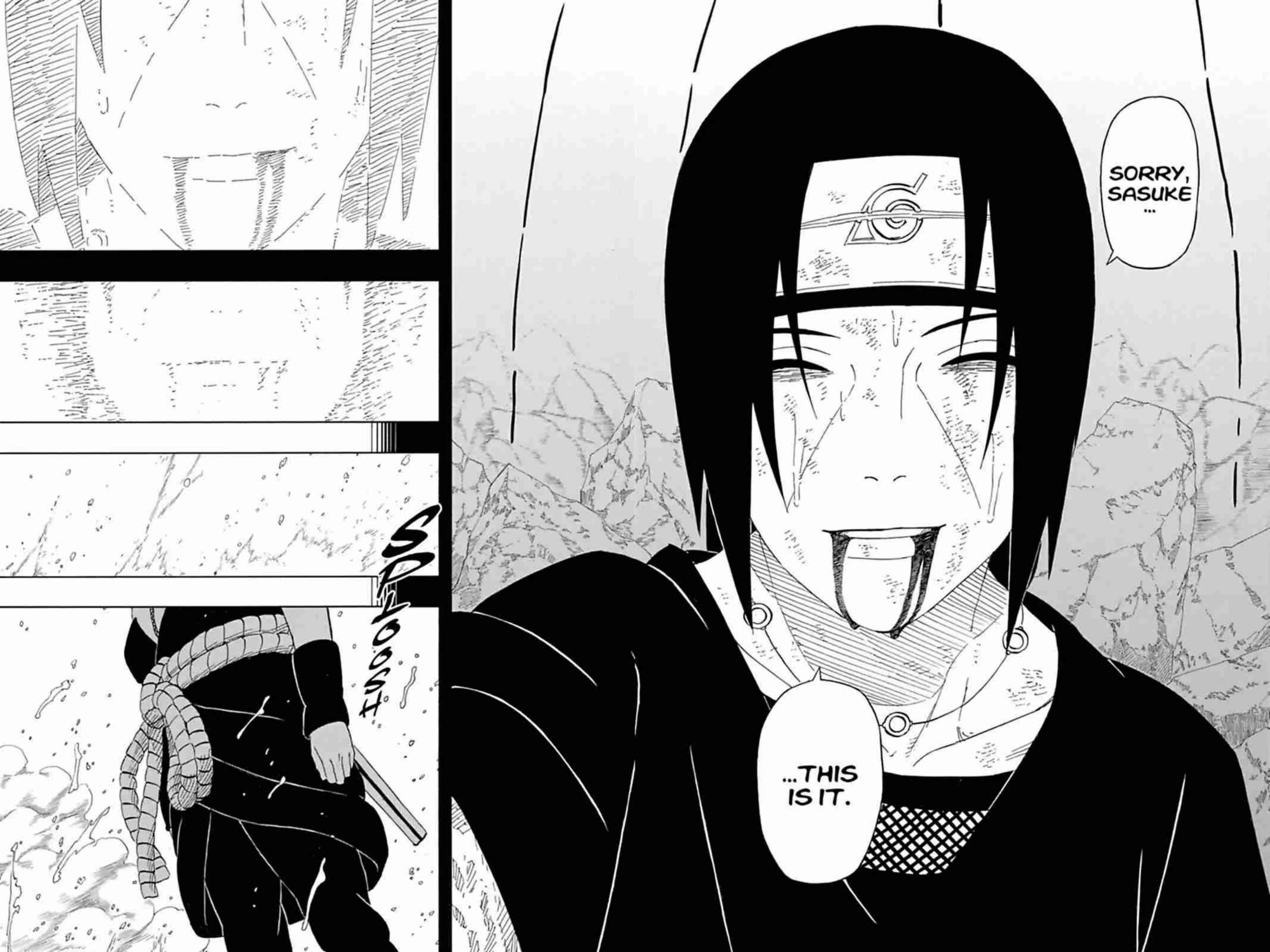
ANOTHER TIME.

OW!

I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE...




READ THIS WAY
TOK
WRBBLE
?!


SPLOOSH
SORRY, SASUKE ...
...THIS IS IT.

READ THIS WAY
KREEE!
FWOOOSH

SPLOOSH...

...WILL BE THE HAWK. WE ARE THE TAKA.

FROM THIS DAY ON, OUR TEAM...

WE HAVE SHED THE SKIN OF THE SNAKE. WE ARE NO LONGER THE HEBI.

READ THIS WAY
TAKA SHALL HAVE BUT ONE MOTIVE.
WE EXIST...
...TO DESTROY KONOHA!